

# PANHANDLE PRESS



**Volume 50, Number 4,  
October, November and December  
2025**

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA SQUARE AND  
ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION**



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# NWFSRDA OFFICERS

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to you all! We hope you had a great 3 days in Pensacola for the Pensacola Rainbow Stroll. The Emerald Waves and Ragon Hall put in a lot of effort to sponsor this dance and we had 5 plus squares there. Nick Hartley and Chris Phillips did a great job!

The Northwest meeting for officers and delegates will take place **Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Roundup from 11:15 am to 12:00 noon**. All members can attend. We will be voting on officers for 2026 so If you would like to run for office let us know.

Tim has been working very hard on the Roundup and is trying to reserve a room at one of the motels for a game room we can use when people are not dancing. He has also reserved rooms so contact him if you did not receive the link. Please get your ribbons as soon as possible so we have an idea who will be coming.

Florida will be hosting the 2028 National Square Dance Convention® in Daytona! Please try to support this effort by volunteering.

Presidents Brian and Barbara McDonald

The Florida Federation website is now at [www.dancergram.com/aa-floridasquaredance.com/index.html](http://www.dancergram.com/aa-floridasquaredance.com/index.html).

Send flyers for Florida Federation website publication to Cliff Reiss at [dgramwebmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:dgramwebmaster@yahoo.com).



## **NWFSRDA CLUBS**

## AGAPE SQUARES:

Mondays 6:00-7:00 pm Class  
7:00-8:30 pm Club (SSD, MS, P)

Caller: Varies

Cross Point Church Fellowship Hall

214 Partin Dr. Niceville, FL

CONTACT: Andrew Sejan (843) 902-5715

## EMERALD WAVES SQUARES:

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm (MS)

Oct.21st Class 6:30-7:3-pm

Caller: Nick Hartley

Ragon Hall 26 Stratford Rd., Pensacola, FL

CONTACT: Tim Tharp (703) 585-7177

## CAPITAL TWIRLERS

Mondays 7:00-9:00 pm (MS, P, A)

Caller: George Lavender

## Tallahassee Senior Center,

1400 N. Monroe, Tallahassee, FL

CONTACT: Gary Yancy (850) 524-0510

# SEASIDE SQUARES

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

Caller: Varies

Ragon Hall 2600 Stratford Rd., Pensacola, FL

CONTACT: Linda Steadman (850) 293-7720

# SWINGING SQUARES

Thursday 5:15-6:15 pm Rounds Class  
6:15-7:15 pm Basic class  
7:15-8:30 (MS, P)

Caller: Miriam Merriwether

Grand Square Hall 1105 Bob Little Rd, Panama City, FL

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

Website: [www.grandsquarehallpanamacity.com](http://www.grandsquarehallpanamacity.com)

Facebook:

@SwingingSquaresGrandSquareHallPanamaCity

## **T-N-T ROUNDS**

Sundays 3:00-5:00 pm

Cuer: Terri Wilaby

T-N-T Hall 6419 Dallas Ave., Pensacola, FL

CONTACT: Terri and Tim Wilaby (850) 712-5230  
[terriwilaby@hotmail.com](mailto:terriwilaby@hotmail.com)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 10, 2025**, Ragon Hall Raise the Roof fundraiser with Nick Hartley and Ted Kenedy 7-9:30 pm

**October 24-25, 2025**, NWFSRDA Roundup at Grand Square Hall, Panama City, FL. Tony Oxendine caller and Sandy Sturgis Cuer

**October 31, 2025**, Seaside Squares, SPOOKTACULAR dance at Ragon Hall 7:00-9:30 pm

**November 21, 2025**, Seaside Squares, Before Gathering for Thanksgiving at Ragon Hall 7:30-9:30 pm

**December** (no date yet), Agape Squares, Christmas Dance

**December 12, 2025**, Seaside Squares, Christmas Dance, Ragon Hall, Ted Kennedy calling 7:00-9:30 pm

**December 15, 2025** Capital Twirlers, Christmas Dance 7-9 pm

**December 18, 2025** Swinging Squares, Christmas Dance at Grand Square Hall, Panama City 6:30-8:30 pm

**December 31, 2025**, Seaside Squares New Years dance at Ragon Hall 1:00-4:00 pm

**January 16-17, 2026**, 71st Florida State Square and Round Dance convention.

**February 14, 2026** NW Sweetheart Dance at Grand Square Hall, Panama City, Bill Chestnut and Terri & Tim Wilaby 1-4pm



## AGAPE

Agape has just had two Open Houses and will start our new lessons next Monday. While our attendance for our Open House was less than in some years, I do think that those who attended enjoyed the experience and we will see if they are able to commit to class each Monday. If you know anyone that would like to take the class, we will need them to start before our cutoff date of October 13, 2025.

Some Agape Dancers traveled to Nationals in Shreveport, LA and Tennessee State Convention in Gatlinburg, TN over the last several months and had a great time. We always look forward to sharing time on the dance floor and visiting some of the local sights and restaurants together. Next year the 75th National Square Dance Convention will be in Waco, TX , June 24-27, 2026. It's not too early to make your plans.

We look forward to dancing every Monday with class 6-7pm and dancing Mainstream/Plus 7-8:30pm We hope you will visit us any time that you can. To our members, thank you for your willingness to come early to be an angel to our new dancers. It is much appreciated. Please continue to support your Agape Board and share any ideas you have to make our club better. We will be having elections soon. We are accepting nominations for all Board positions. Please contact Ed Lewis or Betty Liles, Nominating Committee, with questions or nominations.



## CAPITAL TWIRLERS

The Capital Twirlers have enjoyed a busy third quarter. We kicked it off on July 14<sup>th</sup> when one of Elmer Sheffield's friends from Texas, Tim Tyl, came to call for the Twirlers. Tim is known for his energetic, lively, and exciting style. The Twirlers and several out-of-town guests had a great time. We hope to get Tim back in January 2026 to call for us again.

We graduated nine students from our 2025 beginners square dance class on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Carol Varner from Alabama visited on August 25<sup>th</sup>.



John and Deb Lunzy from Pensacola stopped-in on September 2, and were able to dance to the calling of our own Colin Graves who was filling-in for George Lavender that night.

We are looking forward to our Christmas dance on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

# EMERALD WAVES SQUARES

My calendar says Summer should be over and it should be Fall already, though the temperatures are still in the 90's here in the Florida Panhandle. Hopefully the cooler weather is on its way!

Beginning Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> we'll be hosting two open house events to welcome new dancers and start our Fall/Winter beginner classes. The open house event is free to the public, as well as experienced dancers. Each session will run from 6:30 to 8:30pm. If you know anyone in the local area, please encourage them to come check us out.

Dance Schedule: Every Tuesday night at Ragon Hall; 2600 Stratford Rd Pensacola, FL. Doors open at 6pm for those wanting extra time for practice. Beginning Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, the schedule will be 6:30 – 7:30pm Beginner lessons, 7:30 to 8:45pm Mainstream dancing w/ Plus lessons. Nick Hartley is our caller.

September 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> was The Pensacola Rainbow Stroll, a Fly-In event hosted by our club and Seaside Squares at Ragon Hall. The featured callers were our very own Nick Hartley and special guest caller Chris Phillips from Ft Lauderdale/ Miami. The event was advertised nationally, and we had dancers in attendance from: FL, GA, AL, NC, SC, MD, PA, and Washington DC. In total, we had 70 dancers that attended. Dancing levels of Mainstream, Plus and Advanced and even a Challenge "star" tip. Saturday featured workshops for all dance levels, snacks were provided at each dance session, and our "Free" lunch on Saturday



was provided by local vendors and restaurants. The event also featured a silent auction and a gift-basket raffle. A lot of work went into organizing and hosting the event and all the club members from both Seaside and Emerald Waves did an excellent job. The event was a huge success, and everyone had such a great time. Smiles and laughter throughout the hall!



Visit our webpage <https://emeraldwavessquares.com> or for info email: emeraldwavessquares@gmail.com

**Now let's go dancing!**



## **T-N-T ROUNDS**

T-N-T Rounds Started a New Cha-Cha class last month. Classes will take place over a period of **14 weeks**.

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

Terri's email: [terriwilaby@hotmail.com](mailto:terriwilaby@hotmail.com)

## SEASIDE SQUARES

**Happy Fall, Y'all!** Ted Kennedy and Nick Hartley have continued to provide us with great calling and have kept our Friday nights lively and entertaining. We are very blessed. Thank you to Nancy Kennedy & Lynette Hartley for sharing their husbands with us regularly on Friday nights.

On Thursday nights, students have been learning to dance at the Advanced level and have been exposed to most of the A-1 calls. All are quick to learn, and the usual advanced dancers have benefited from the class time as well. Thank you Nick & Lynette.

We held our Beach Blast/July Jamboree on Saturday afternoon July 26<sup>th</sup>. Ted Kennedy kept everyone busy with multiple levels of square dancing and Diane Martin cued easy rounds. Everyone had a fun time.

We were dark on the first Friday in August to support the Tennessee State Convention. On Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, we celebrated Seaside Squares 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary with Caller, Nick Hartley and Cuer, Susan Wolford. We started with Advanced dancing, then we enjoyed a nice potluck lunch. We tried to work off our lunch with mainstream & plus squares and easy rounds. We had four squares plus a few extras.

Everyone enjoyed the first Pensacola Rainbow Stroll jointly sponsored by Seaside Squares & Emerald Wave Squares. Our Callers were Nick Hartley, Fairhope, AL and Chris Phillips, Miami, FL. It was a three day square dance event, 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> of September. Dancers flew in from great distances around the US. Thursday night was dedicated to Advanced dancing. Friday night was designed for all levels of square dancers from mainstream through advanced. We were kept busy on Saturday with both morning and afternoon workshops with a catered lunch provided by local vendors. On Saturday night we danced at all levels again. We had a

successful silent auction of a variety of items, and we also had a number of items won by a raffle drawing.

On Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> of September, we welcomed Alec Schmidt, Niceville, FL to call for his first club dance. We had three squares on the floor, and everyone enjoyed it. We look forward to having Alec call again for us in 2026. We also enjoyed having Susan Wolford, Punta Gorda, FL cue easy rounds.

We enjoyed having Susan Wolford cue for us while she and her husband, Don, were vacationing nearby. We'll have to say goodbye to them for the winter at our dance on Friday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. Ted Kennedy will be calling for us that evening.

On Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> of October, Seaside Squares will hold a Raise the Roof fundraiser. Our dance hall needs a new roof. Please make a generous donation. To encourage attendance, we'll have both Ted Kennedy and Nick Hartley calling for this event. We'll also be serving funnel cakes & the first one is free. We'll start with advanced level dancing from 6:30pm – 7:00pm, a plus level workshop from 7:00pm – 7:30pm and regular dancing from 7:30pm – 9:30pm.

**Seaside Squares will be dark on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October to support the 51st NWFSRDA Roundup at Grand Square Hall, Panama City, FL. Y'all come!**

Nick Hartley will be calling for us on Halloween, Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Join us for a SPOOKTACULAR event 7:00pm – 9:30pm.

We'll gather before Thanksgiving with our dance on Friday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 7:30pm – 9:30pm. Ted Kennedy will be calling. Please bring non-perishable items to donate to the Manna Food Bank.

Our Christmas dance will be on Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 7:00pm – 9:30pm with Ted Kennedy calling. Once again we'll be collecting non-perishable items to donate to Manna Food Bank.

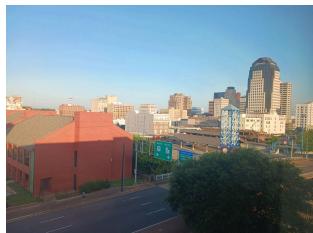
We'll celebrate New Year's Eve on Wednesday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 1:00pm – 4:00pm with all levels of square dancing from mainstream – advanced. Our Caller will be Nick Hartley.

May everyone have a healthy and happy holiday season, and we'll see you in a square in 2026!



The above pictures from July Jubilee 2025

Below pictures from 2025 National Square Dance convention



## SWINGING SQUARES

Swinging Squares is a club with so many people that are always willing to help. This help comes in various forms. We have a couple who make a trip to the hall early to turn on the AC so it will be comfortable when dancers arrive. We have others who help our caller, cuer, set up equipment and help pack it up after the dance. We have folks that come and clean the hall when it is our club's turn to do deep cleaning. Others stay after each dance to clean, sweep, and vacuum. Our club is like a family that cares about others and we're just blessed to have so many dancers that enjoy being involved.



On 9/11, we had our graduation ceremony. It was nice to have a Presidential flag (that flew over the White House) which Joe McLendon supplied along with a new pole. It is a welcome sight. We had 12 graduates and 9 were able to enjoy a sweet ceremony that our caller, Miriam Merriwether, orchestrated. Our graduates are looking forward to being our newest angels for our next class. We will have 2 Open Houses, one on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, and the other on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. The free Open House will be from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, and our regular dance will be 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Unfortunately our Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> Open House conflicts with the first "Fly In" event at Ragon Hall.

Joe Sellars and Joan Payne responded to the interest others had in learning how to round dance. There is now a class on Thursdays from 5:15 pm to 6:15 pm that Miriam teaches with David helping demonstrate and it is \$5.00 a session. So far, there has been a great turn-out.

On Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Joe Sellars and Joan Payne will be going to Tyndall A.F.B. to promote our club at a military/public event.

Joan Payne, our social media volunteer, continues to keep Swinging Squares FB page and website current. This is always a great source of information. She is full of great ideas to promote square dancing, and we appreciate all she does for the club.

We are really looking forward to this year's Round-Up and we know it is going to be a great dance!

Facebook: [SwingingSquaresPanamaCity](#)

Website: [grandsquarehallpanamacity.com](http://grandsquarehallpanamacity.com)

Email: [swingingsquaresgshpc@gmail.com](mailto:swingingsquaresgshpc@gmail.com)

Call/text: Kathie (850) 896-5798

Anne (850) 387-3101





## IN MEMORY



## ADVERTISEMENTS

Want to see  
**YOUR** ad  
here?

Check out our  
rates & deadlines  
on Boosters  
page!

This space  
is only



<b>B</b> <b>J</b> <b>D</b>	<b>BRIAN MCDONALD</b> GIA GEMOLOGIST 704 TROWBRIDGE AVE. FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA 32547 PHONE 850-240-1637
<a href="#">Contact Us</a> <a href="mailto:sales@briansjewelrydesigns.com">sales@briansjewelrydesigns.com</a>	 <a href="#">SCAN ME</a>
<a href="#">Visit Us</a> <a href="http://briansjewelrydesigns.com">briansjewelrydesigns.com</a>	
<p>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>	
<b>B</b> <b>J</b> <b>D</b>	Please get in touch to offer comments and join our mailing list for sales and specials!

# **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
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
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## **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 7:00-9:30 pm  
Callers vary  
Contact: Linda Stead (850) 293-7720  
ragonhall3@gmail.com

## **SATURDAY**

Assorted Activities

## **SUNDAY**

## **OPEN**

Contact: Linda Stead (850) 293-7720

# PANHANDLE PRESS BOOSTERS

We are seeking boosters for 2025 to help cover the costs of our printing, ink, and paper. Consider making a donation of:

\$5.00 ( <b>Bronze</b> )	\$15.00 ( <b>Silver</b> )
\$25.00 ( <b>Gold</b> )	\$35.00 ( <b>Platinum</b> )

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

<b>One time-ad:</b>	<b>Full Year ad (4 issues):</b>
$\frac{1}{4}$ Page=\$5.00	$\frac{1}{4}$ page=\$17.00
$\frac{1}{2}$ page=\$10.00	$\frac{1}{2}$ page=\$35.00
Full page=\$20.00	Full page=\$70.00

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

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**DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS AND ARTICLES Dec. 20st.**

# NWFSRDA's 51st Annual Roundup October 24-25, 2025

Grand Square Hall

1105 Bob Little Rd Panama City, FL

**Featured Caller:**  
Tony Oxendine



**Featured Cuer:**  
Sandy Sturgis



## Schedule of Events

### Friday & Saturday Nights

7:00 - 7:30: Early Rounds  
7:30 - 7:40: Introductions  
7:40 - 9:45: Squares w/ Rounds

### Saturday Morning & Afternoon

9:00 - 11:00am: Plus /Plus workshop  
11:15 - Noon: NWFSRDA Meeting  
Noon - 1:00pm: Potluck Lunch  
1:00 - 3:00: Advanced level dancing  
3:00 - 5:00: Rounds (Teach & Dance)  
5:00 - 7:00: Dinner on your own

Square dance attire requested, but not required

See reverse for Motel / Rv info



Ribbon Pricing



Roundup Coordinator - Tim Tharp

[tgtharp@gmail.com](mailto:tgtharp@gmail.com) 703-585-7177

## **MOTELS**

**(Convenient to Grand Square Hall)**

Holiday Inn Express (1.7 miles)  
5627 E Highway 22, Panama City, FL 32404 Ph: 850-215-3200

Comfort Suites (1.7 miles)  
264 North Tyndall Parkway, Callaway, FL 32404 Ph: 850-215-5551

## **RV Parks**

**(These are the closest according to Google. Others may be available)**

Gulf Oaks RV Park & Smuggler's Cove Marina  
5612 E Hwy 98, Panama City, FL 32404 Ph: 850-704-8435

Nautical Point RV Park  
317 Blackshear Dr, Panama City, FL 32404 Ph: 850-596-9052

Tyndall AFB FamCamp (Military and Veterans)  
101 Fam Camp Rd, Tyndall AFB, FL 32403 Ph: 850-283-2798

## **Ribbon Pricing**

Through 01 Oct 2025: NWFSRDA members \$15.00pp, non-members \$30.00pp

After 01 Oct 2025: NWFSRDA members \$18.00pp, non-members \$36.00pp

Youth (13 or younger) Price: Through 1 Oct 2025: \$8.00pp. After 1 Oct 2025: \$9.00

One day only pricing, at the door: Friday night \$18.00pp. Saturday workshops & dance  
\$24.00pp

\*Initial NWFSRDA membership cost: \$15.00. Annual renewal \$10.00  
Florida residency not required.

## **Ribbon Order**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Ribbons: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of enclosed check: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to NWFSRDA and mail to:

Alec Schmidt, 116 Bayou Drive, Niceville, FL 32578.

Please include a SASE for ribbons to be mailed. Otherwise, ribbons will be held at the door.

# 71st Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention

*Survive The Curse at the 71<sup>st</sup>*

*Survive the Curse at the 71<sup>st</sup>*

2026



January 16-17, 2026  
The Center at Deltona  
Florida Square & Round Dance Convention

January 16-17, 2026

*The Center at Deltona*  
1640 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Deltona, FL 32725

*Trail End Dance:*  
*Thursday, January 15, 2026*  
**COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!**

Be sure to also register for the Friday night Dinner

Visit [www.floridasquaredance.com](http://www.floridasquaredance.com) for more information and to register.

# HOTEL UPDATE



75th National Square  
Dance Convention®



June 24-27 2026  
DIAMOND JUBILEE



The HILTON and COURTYARD hotels are fully booked except for a few rooms at the rack rate of \$397.

*As you receive your hotel portal link by email,  
please look into our 8 other hotels.*

We're so glad our 75th dancers are excited about our Waco Convention. You'll discover that Waco has lots to offer and thank you for understanding that smaller towns have smaller hotels.