

NSDCA

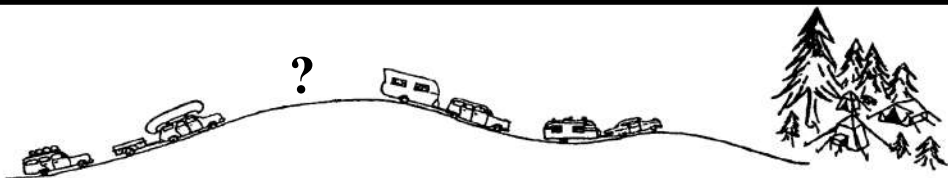


TIMES

December 2023-February 2024 Volume 62 Issue 1

**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

NSDCA, INC., P.O. Box 241, Butler, WI 53007-9998



Camp & Dance Till The Cows Come Home

JUNE
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2024



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Camporee

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Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

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"and we're just around the corner
from the Nationals
in Milwaukee"



Don't Miss
this one!

Contact: Tricia Chartier - 414-807-4083

E-mail: secnsdca@gmail.com

Hosted by: Chapter 002 Pine Tree Campers

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John & Dolly Ide



I'm sure it was just last week when we were in Lebanon, TN, for our fantastic 2023 International NSDCA Camporee. At least it seems like that because time goes by so fast. Here it is that we just celebrated Thanksgiving and now look forward to Christmas and New Years, and then a whole year of new fun, camping and dancing. Why don't you all up north just come down to the warmer parts of the country and come dance and camp with us?

No matter where you are and where and how you spend the winter, there are some important things to remind you of. The first is the renewal of your membership for 2024. Next year's dues need to be submitted to Kathy Nickel, our Membership Secretary, before the end of the year. This is very important so that we have some idea of how many camper-dancers we need to plan for. Please get with you Chapter officers, provide them with your dues so that they can send a completed membership list to the National.

The next thing to plan on is the 66th NSDCA International Camporee, to be held in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Our new NSDCA Board Secretaries, Tricia and Neal Chartier, have also undertaken the task of chairing the Camporee, and we can assure you that it will be "udderly" fantastic. We'll be dancing till the cows come home. Besides the dancing, Tricia and her team are planning host of special activities for everyone to enjoy. Provisions have also been made for a close-to-Milwaukee RV resort on the banks of the shore of Lake Michigan for you to use so that you can also enjoy the NSDC in Milwaukee. Please register right away so that Tricia can plan appropriately for next summer. A registration form can be found in this issue's centerfold or online at www.NSDCA.org.

The next item needing everyone's attention is that we are looking for a new National Board member next year. The position to be vacated is Vice President. If you are interested, or know someone else who might be interested, please let any Board member know of your—or that someone else's—interest. The National Board is an important and re-

('President' continued on page 26)



Ruth & “Ozzie” Chuck Osborn



Praying everyone has had a Blessed Thanksgiving and safe travels. We are so very thankful for the Square Dance Family we have and look forward to the ones we have yet to meet. As we write this, we are enjoying our southern transition to Florida! We have had a great time at our first FANSDC Camporee.

Please check the email addresses on file for your Chapter contacts as we are still coming up with errors. It would be great if ALL Chapters had an email address, even if said address belongs to another member of your Chapter. Please be sure to complete and mail in the Chapter Officer form again this year, even if the officers are all the same; sometimes contact information changes.

We are saddened to hear some of our Chapters are struggling, but some are getting creative in the ways to continue forward. One suggestion is to see what support we can provide to the Social Square Dance Community, which is a whole new, untapped group of beginner dancers who may camp. We are working hard with Brick and Mortal clubs, everywhere, to encourage what we love.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the Members At Large Chapter (000-MAL) as an option if there is not an active Chapter in your area or your Chapter closes. You continue with all the NSDCA benefits and the Vice Presidents become your point of contact.

Some of you may not be aware, but we need new officers on the National Board in June 2024. Our term will be fulfilled, and we will not be extending our position for another term. The Board is looking for someone(s) to fill this position and we will be happy to assist in the transition. If you are interested in volunteering for this, please be sure to let one of the National Board Officers know ASAP. Someone has to do it; it might as well be you!

The 66th International Camporee is well on its way to being a great time for all. We urge everyone to send in their registrations as soon as possible to assist in making sure there is enough of everything. There are T-shirts for sale (see page 59) which you can pick up at the Camporee. If you are going to the Nationals in Milwaukee, plan to head out a week early to dust off you dancing shoes beforehand.

(‘VP’ continued on page 11)



Tricia & Neal Chartier



I think I am finally getting the hang of the National Secretary job. I appreciate all of the help from the National Board they are truly wonderful individuals. Renewals are due and we would appreciate if the Chapter can get us their mailing ASAP. With Christmas around the corner, I am sure the mail will be slowing down. Because Neal and I live in Wisconsin we were able to move the P.O. Box so that we could hopefully speed up the mail getting to where it needs to be. We were pleased that we even saved a little money as we are now at a small post office.

Neal came home from work shortly after we returned from the International Camporee in Lebanon, TN. He heard me on the phone with Ruth Osborn talking about organizing the 66th International Camporee for June 2024. I felt if we didn't step up to the plate we would not be having a Camporee for 2024. Dolly Ide was so cute; she asked what our theme would be. I don't think she realize that I am known as the 'Moo Lady.' The National Square Dance Convention that is in Milwaukee is using a cow theme. It was a no brainer!

Neal and I are both working full time. We always have to use Neal's vacation between attending the National Square Dance Convention or attending the International Camporee. Now that we have a motorhome we have been choosing the Camporee. With a Square Dance Cruise going to Alaska in July, it just made sense to have our Camporee before the National Square Dance convention that will be held in Milwaukee. We are hoping that this goes over well and it is something we can continue to do moving forward.

We are doing several different things. We are having our 66th International Camporee in Fond du Lac the week before the National Square Dance Convention. One of the new things we are doing is we have a special cow T-shirt that you can purchase (see page 59); you will receive it when you arrive at the Camporee. On Wednesday at our craft day we will be jazzing up our T-shirts. We are going to be having a few potluck dinners and s'mores for one of our after party snacks.

We sure hope you will want to come camp with us, then continue down to the National Square Dance Convention. I am telling everyone we will herd you to National.

('Secretary' continued on page 7)



Susan & Don Wolford



Where has the summer gone? I'm sure that is everyone's question. Time flies when you're having fun, eh? We've been working hard this summer on our Gunter'sville home. Goodness, I think Don's list was a mile long. He's worked diligently all summer and did get what he wanted to get done, done. Now, lock the door and head to Florida for the winter.

Florida put on a great Florida Camporee (FANSDC) in October in Eustis, FL. The theme was *Celebrate America! Home of the Free Because of The Brave*. We have so much to be thankful for regarding the men and women who have dedicated their lives for our freedom. We had six squares at times. It was fun to join with the Florida NSDCA camping clubs for dancing, fun and fellowship.

As we are nearing year end, remember to send in your Chapter renewals. Also, send in any changes to your address whether you have moved or you have a winter address (see page 46). When a *TIMES* newsletter is returned because it could not be delivered, it costs NSDCA close to \$2.50 for the additional postage. We want to avoid having to pay these additional postage fees due to inability to deliver a *TIMES* newsletter, plus we want you to receive your *TIMES* newsletter in a timely manner so you can read all the exciting news of the different Chapters.

Camping season is just beginning for us in Florida. We are looking forward to camping and dancing with our Florida friends.

We hope y'all have a safe and happy Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dance all you can. Stay healthy.

Don & Susan

('Secretary' continued from page 6)

I am working on several fun things to do between the Camporee and the National. On Friday after the Camporee you will want to be moving to a camp group that will be closer to downtown Milwaukee. Friday night you will want to go out for a Fish Fry; it's a Wisconsin thing!!! Every restaurant will have a Fish Fry the small bar and restaurants are excellent. Not to worry if you can't do fried fish; they usually have baked fish!!! Yummy!!!

Tricia & Neal





Kathy Nickel Membership Secretary



Hi. It's Halloween today and we had our first tracking snow already. I guess we have to expect that living here in Wisconsin, but it is a little early and I am not quite ready for the cold. I hope everyone did a lot of camping and dancing this Summer and Fall. We had a great time, and Fall is a beautiful time of the year here in Wisconsin it was hard to put our camper away for the Winter.

I am starting to receive your 2024 Membership Renewals, as I have had two clubs submit them already: Chapters 085 (Mobile Squares) and 075 (Trail n Squares). Thanks for being so prompt! Remember that renewals are due before the end of December. Submitting your renewals before January is important: we need to get our NSDCA Insurance for the next year finalized; we need to have a Membership count and funding to accomplish this.

I have been experiencing issues with email addresses and phone numbers, and I am unable to reach members to confirm their membership information. On the revised Renewal Form (see the NSDCA website) there is a spot to update email addresses if needed. I have also received Chapters Officer listings from Chapter 116 (Camping Squares of Kansas) and 198 (Crossfire Campers). This is a good time to update your officers for 2024. The forms are on the NSDCA website: nsdca.org. If you have any questions or need help with any of the forms, please feel free to contact me at kathynickelnsdca@gmail.com. Let's set and meet a goal to have all Chapters renewed by December 15th.

Happy Camping and Dancing!

Kathy

State & Area Representatives' Reports Michigan State Representative

The Michigan weather has become unseasonably cool. Most or all of the camping units have been winterized and ready for storage this winter.

There isn't much to report at this time. Plans for the Michigan State Camporee are continuing during the off season of camping. All of the different committees will come together in the spring and will be ready for a great Camporee in July. A registration form will be included in the next *TIMES* newsletter.

Everyone have great holidays and stay safe. We will be looking forward to May for our camping season to start in Michigan.

Alberta & Gary Gunsell, Michigan State Representatives
989-666-4232, gunsell@lentel.com

Illinois State Representative

Since the last issue, Illinois State Board members held their fall meeting and celebrated the success of the State Camporee and discussed the plans and details of the 2024 Camporee. The 2024 Illinois State Camporee will be held May 31 through June 2, 2024 at Parke County 4H Fairgrounds, in Rockville, IN. Attendees may come in on May 30 for an extra fee. All sites have electricity but are without water hookup, although water is available for filling up when ever needed. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. The registration form will be in the next issue.

Brr! It's winter in Illinois. The snow birds have flown the coop, or soon will be. Personally, we headed to Florida in November. It's not hot as some people believe, but usually there is NO SNOW or ICE, which are two of the reasons we leave Illinois for the winter. After a summer with many camping trips, it's nice to just stay in one place and still enjoy camping activities. Those staying in Illinois are bundled up, getting their homes spruced up for the holidays and shopping for those holiday gifts. Speaking of the holidays, for all those reading this issue of the NSDCA *TIMES*, no matter which holiday you celebrate we wish you a very joyous celebration.

Until next time, wishing you good health and safe travels.

Lawrence and Ruthann Sanders, RSRN4@aol.com 708-650-6122

Florida State Representative

In the summer most people are visiting their families out of state, so the gatherings were smaller than usual. We didn't make it to anything in August, but in September we went with #128 (Square Wheels) to Southern Oaks in Summerfield. In early October we went with #193 (Roadrunners) to Wekiva Falls in Sorrento; we'd been there with them once before and had a great time. In late October we attended the Florida State NSDCA Camporee; 35 rigs were in attendance with a couple of walk-ins. Hopefully next year we'll have more attendees, encouraging more people who currently square dance and camp to do both at the same time.

That's all folks!

Mary & John Burzo



NSDCA Publicity Director

Well, it seems that most of our summer time camping and square dancing is coming to another year end. With students back in school, shorter days and colder temperatures, many are heading for inside things to do.

In our area we usually start square dance lessons in the middle of September, which will get finished by the middle of December. Sometimes we also teach another starting in January. This gives us another chance to talk to people that currently own an RV about the NSDCA. Of course, living in the northern portions of our great country means that they will have to wait until April or so to join the activities of one of our Chapters.

There is, of course, another option: if you are a “Snow Bird” in Florida or a “Winter Texan” in Texas, you may have the opportunity to attend a square dance class in your locale. (I’m sorry I am not aware of the labels that they give those of you that hide from Father Winter in other locations; please enlighten me when you get a chance!) They almost always enjoy a good set of “angels” to fill up and assist a square of students.

The great thing about learning to square dance in the South in the winter, besides avoiding all the ice, snow, window scraping and just miserable times, is that *if* you are at a class that happens to happen *in* an RV campground, the students probably already have an RV of some type. Easy pickings!

They would be a great target opportunity to talk up the value of continuing their wonderful experience of square dancing and camping by joining an NSDCA Chapter near their summer location. All you really need to do is talk to them, show them a copy of the *TIMES*, help them find a Chapter, and away they go!

The square dance community in general and the NSDCA in particular is losing people and units on a yearly basis; there are lots of reasons, but mostly Father Time is the biggest culprit. Everyone needs to work on encouraging more people into this great activity to help us maintain numbers that will keep Chapters with enough people to hold a square dance with one or more squares.

There are lots of ways to communicate to others; some are digital, but maybe the best way is face-to-face and talking about activities that you enjoy. People can relate much better to your enthusiasm for square dance camping when engaged in person-to-person talking. Don’t be afraid to bring it up, *everywhere*.

When we are pulling our unit to the next square dance campout and someone asks where we are headed, we always answer, “To a square dance at such and such campground.” They may say that they didn’t know that the campground had a square dance. Your response could be, “They will when we get there, why don’t you stop by and join us?”

Just talk to people. *Bill Baker*, grandebill@grics.net

ARTS-Dance

Barbara Connelly, BLC614@juno.com

Have you had a chance to see the new promotional videos that were created through a grant from ARTS-Dance? The Alliance for Round, Traditional, and Square **Dance** (ARTS-Dance) has created four short videos promoting the benefits of square dancing.

In the first video, Dr. Lee discusses the many benefits of Square Dancing. Emotional and psychological benefits are gained from our activity with the emphasis on exercise and positive socialization. The second video tells how Square Dancing can help fight insulin resistance. In the third video, strengthening of muscles and increased balance is emphasized. The fourth video shows how Square Dancing improves the quality of life for people suffering from early dementia: the physicality requires dancers to make mental decisions which may help delay dementia.

These videos can be found at www.ARTS-Dance.org and are available to be placed as links on Facebook and other social media. If you use them, please let ARTS-Dance know how and where so they can track their usage and effectiveness.

First video - https://youtu.be/hY8214_yN3s (~90 seconds long)
Second video - https://youtu.be/n56_omnoFZ0 (~60 seconds long)
Third video - https://youtu.be/7P_O8YG7Iak (~60 seconds long)
Fourth video - <https://youtu.be/FRkuFqmTFPM> (~60 seconds long)



(VP continued from page 5)

We are looking for people to host the 67th and 68th International Camporees, and we have some great ideas on locations. Now is when plans for these should be getting started. This year we ended up behind the eight ball for the 66th, which is not fun for anyone. We greatly appreciate all the hard work our Wisconsin Chapters are doing to make it work out for a great time.

We wish everyone safe travels, Happy Holidays and a healthy New Year.

P.S. We think the *TIMES* Editor deserves a huge raise for all the work he puts into this publication to make it great, every time. Let's add a few 0000's!

Hope to see you across the Square or Campfire soon.

Ozzie (Chuck) & Ruth Osborn (VP2NSDCA@gmail.com)



001 Garden State Square Dance Campers; New Jersey

In August our campout was at Appalachian RV Resort in Shartlesville, PA. Our caller was Mark Franks; his wife Cheryl also joined us for the weekend. The weather was hot and rainy. Mark workshopped *Track 2* where he taught the call as a tandem partner trade, the tag to the 2nd position (parallel waves). Mark also reviewed *Recycle* from right and left-handed waves, as well as with the ladies on the ends of the wave. The theme was wine and cheese with a great assortment of both. We had nine guests this weekend and two families became members.

In September we were at Otter Lake RV Resort. Our caller and cuer were Betsy and Roy Gotta. We didn't have enough dancers to make two full squares, so we had one square of eight and other times a square of six couples. During the workshop Saturday morning, Betsy worked on *Triple Scoot*, *Diamonds*, and *Follow Your Neighbor*. The theme for the nighttime dance was "wear PJs." We had five guests at this campout. The weather was hot and rainy.

For our October campout we decided to do something different and went to Cherry Ridge Campground to dance with Dane Bragg and Jenn Engimann calling. We had 14 members of our club attend this weekend. The difference was that we each had to make our own reservations directly with the campground. Many of us signed up for the same weekend next year. We enjoyed the weekend and the other dancers that attended.

We winterized our trailers and coaches and can't wait for the next season to start in early May with the Square-up Campers, Chapter #106.

We would really love it if other clubs could join us at our campouts. Our website (www.gssdca.wix.com/gssdca) contains registration forms you can download, print out and send in as well as a lot of other information. Our co-president, Pauline Vande Vrede, periodically updates the photos from the campouts.

Our Chapter is looking for a few friendly people that camp to come and see what we are all about. We have many New Jersey and Pennsylvania clubs that will be happy to teach you the steps to reach plus level so you can join us the following camping season.

A Big Yellow Rock to ALL!

Susan Schwarz; susanjaneschwarz@gmail.com; 610-996-7674

014 Blackhawk Crosstrailers; Illinois

Summer fun is done, and here in the Midwest campers have been winterized and snowbirds have flown the coop. Our last campout in September was memorable, staying at the Thomson Causeway on the Mighty

Mississippi River. The whole gang was there and several guests as well. The weekend adventures included a trip to the famous Poopy's Biker Bar restaurant in Savanna, IL, a Dutch Windmill on the river, Lock & Dam 13, and of course good eats, fine fellowship, crafting and dancing. In October, we had one final Pizza Potluck at the home of Larry and Darlene Johnson. We picked up a new member, Bob Huckaby - welcome aboard! Campouts were scheduled for 2024 and then farewell to friends for the season with hugs all around! The Crosstrailers wish you all the blessings of the seasons and safe travels wherever you roam; until we meet again.

Bob & Sally Foley; barksnpaws42@gmail.com;
815-275-1567

044 Illiana Square Wheelers; Illinois/Indiana

We're getting smaller and smaller, but we're still holding the Chapter together. At least some of the Chapter members occasionally get together along with some friends of the Chapter for lunch, but not as often as we'd like. Health issues have put square dancing out of the question for most of us, although most all are still camping. Anyone visiting in the Chicago area should give us a call and perhaps we'll be able to give them a quick tour of Chicago.

Wishing all a GREAT HOLIDAY.

Ruthann Sanders; RSRN4@aol.com; 708-946-6102

106 Square Up Campers; Pennsylvania

Sherry Sensenig can transform an ordinary camper into something very unique and beautiful! She and husband Doug put their creative minds together and researched paints and techniques to do the tasks of décor improvements. Most impressive was painting a brown couch to a shiny durable black. The glass front cabinets are now smooth

lovely white. Sherry uses an attractive black and white theme on the walls, curtains and even the bathroom! They have camped with the Square Ups since 2017 and had other RVs, so they knew what they want-



(‘Chats’ continued on page 14)



Chats

(*'Chats' continued from page 13*)

ed. Why not visit our group and see such talented designers!

Kathy Engel; kathy@kuhncom.net

116 Camping Squares; Kansas

We've been having a fun summer here in Kansas, even with the extreme heat arriving in July! Our May campout was cancelled due to a fire at the lake. In June, we had a great time at the Kansas State Square Dance Convention as well as the National Convention! July was the Internation-



al Camporee and then we had a weekday campout at El Dorado State Lake. Our mid-August campout was at Sand Hills State Park in Hutchinson, KS, with various fun tours in the area.

In September, we had a couple of campouts and activities: in mid-September we were at the Nebraska State Square Dance Convention and in late September/early October we were at the Kanopolis Reservoir with various activities in the area. Our last campout of the season was mid-October at the Old Mill Campground in Lindsborg, KS. There was also the Gold District Fall Festival in Wichita, KS later in the month – no camping there, just lots of fun. Please see details on our future camping events online at the NSDCA website.



Anyone in the area is always welcome to join us! Be sure to check and ensure we haven't cancelled the event or changed the venue! For more information, contact Marty & Frank Golden at (phone) 316-943-4137 or (email) fmgolden9515@sbcglobal.net.

Cheryl Ferris; marshfur@att.net; 316-640-4273

119 Wander Yonders; Wyoming

We hope that you all have had a wonderful summer. Here in Wyoming and Colorado we had a very wet spring that was great. It is hard to re-

member when we last saw our countryside so green. It was a joy to travel to other dances and campouts to see the prairie so green. But sadly, now it has turned brown and wildfire season is upon us!

At the end of August some members of the club went up to Glendo, Wyoming for the Shepherders Rendezvous. Keith and Myrna told us that it was such a good time they didn't know why they had not attended this function before. I hope that we do not miss it next year. Rita, one of our members, raises sheep there and had invited us up to the event.

Our Caller, Dave Guille, called an afternoon demonstration dance and they had three squares dancing!

On October 15th we attended the Ponderosa Promenade's Square Dance Club in Cheyenne. Leo and Diana had spearheaded a "surprise" 80th birthday celebration for Dave. Dave's hall was full, and we prayed that he would have good health and many more years calling for us!

Our November meeting will be a potluck and we will elect new officers. That is really a misnomer, as thankfully the present officers have agreed to stay in their respective offices for another year. They are: Leo and Diana Fergel, President; Tom Matson, Vice-President; Rhonda Bueschler, Secretary; Sharon Matson, Treasury; and Nell Coffey, Historian.

Our Chapter contact is Leo or Diana Fergel; they may be reached at 307-635-7312 or lfergel@bresnan.net.

Nell Coffey; 303-823-6096

121 Northwood Stompers; Michigan

The first of November finds Chapter 121, Northwoods Stompers of Michigan, putting some camper units to bed for the winter and others either going south or west to warmer climates. We had a successful and busy 2023 camping/dancing year. Always a hit is our trip to Blyth, Ontario for the NSDCA Ontario Camporee. Pictured (→) is our group that attended in Ontario. We also attend the Blyth Festival Theatre for some evening fun with the current play. Waiting to enter the theatre (→) are Elaine Demand, Peggy Ardelean, Rosey Kimble, Bill Tudor and Kim Winger. We are looking forward to camping, dancing with friends in 2024.



Marjorie Tudor; mtudor46@gmail.com; 989-275-6197

123 Swing N Traveler's; Illinois

We have had some problems, with many of our campers having either medical or family issues when we needed them to host our campouts. Be-

(Chats' continued on page 16)



Chats

(‘Chats’ continued from page 15)

ing progressive, we have decided to hold several of those monthly meetings in a ‘laid back’ fashion with no real host, just getting together to have a great time without the need for all that structure of “do this at this time” and “do that at that time.”

In August, Dave and Mary Bruun and Jim and Sharon Waller hosted our August meeting at Arrowhead Acres near Clinton, IL. We all enjoyed a dinner at Cinco DeMayo restaurant in Clinton followed by various card games. Since we had no Sheriff for the badge patrol on Thursday, we had a short business meeting which included how the next ‘laid back’ campout would be planned. The Bakers got the dinner meal planned, the Bowers were in charge of games, and we had everyone bring a grill to cook some kind of meat for Thursday night. Liz Hand offered to make a card-making craft for the ladies, and Liz and John volunteered to provide the Friday morning breakfast. So, the next month’s ‘laid back’ plan was in place.

Back at Arrowhead Acres we had a great Bocce Ball contest that had several teams competing, with the spectators involved in moving their chairs to either keep in the sun or to keep out of the sun.

Dinner was whenever and whatever you wanted, ‘cause we were on our own! The campground said we could use the big fire pit, so we did. Several of the campers went to Lincoln for the square dance there, while the rest enjoyed the fire and some games. Donated items and some devotions filled out the next morning along with “goodbyes” and “see you soon.”

September found us at Kentuckiana Kampground near Hopedale, IL. Dinner was at Jack’s in Tremont, with some difficulty it being a Wednesday night, and lots of people enjoy Jack’s on Wednesday night!

Since this was another ‘laid back’ campout, we had the Business Meeting on Wednesday evening since the President was not available Thursday morning; see, laid back! Thursday, without the meeting, we played Bean Bag Baseball; later there was a presentation and lunch provided by Sky Med, an insurance policy that covers you for medical expenses following an accident or major health issue such as heart attack or such. It includes paying for a helicopter ambulance if required, plus they will either fly someone of your choice to your location to move your RV to where ever you want or they will provide someone to drive it. The presentation was low pressure and well accepted.

The afternoon had Liz Hand teaching how to make personalized greeting cards of all types. This was followed by Bill Baker and Barry Vlad holding a ‘plus’ square dance workshop, while the rest played cards. Din-

ner was, once again, cook your own meat and bring a dish. Several people then left for Pekin for the square dance that was held there.

On Friday morning we had a great breakfast spread put on by the Hands, with homemade scones and lots of toppings; the real stuff! It was followed by Jerry Boutelle leading devotions, more goodbyes and see ya' laters.

October was at Camp Nauvoo, in Nauvoo, IL. It was a former home of the Latter-Day Saints; lots of history and a beautiful location on the Mississippi River. We were very short on camping units, with many having other plans, and many others that were either having trouble with their units or moving them to the South.

Dinner was at the Red Front, which is one of the only eateries open Saturday evening in the town. It was nice but not worth the long drive, if you know what I mean. Sunday was a glorious day with bright skies and warm weather. Dinner that evening was at the Hawkeye Restaurant in Keokuk. Can you imagine that a restaurant called Hawkeye in Iowa???

The next morning, we were joined by our club's president and his lovely wife for the business meeting, during which we discussed next year's camping plans which will include a club caravan along Route 66 in Illinois, since that will be the 100th anniversary of that famous road. We plan on starting in Pontiac and staying a few days, followed by a campout at the Illinois State Fair Grounds in Springfield to complete a study of the history of Route 66.

Instead of games, Joy and Barry Vlad organized a pumpkin carving opportunity, which was done by couples with templates and tooling provided by the Vlads. It was great fun, with husband and wife working together to create their own design for the best Jack-O-Lantern. Surprisingly, everyone tied for First Place!



We had a great square dance with two squares of dancers on Monday night, with great calling by Curt Braffet and Tom Manning. The theme

(‘Chats’ continued on page 18)



Chats

(‘Chats’ continued from page 17)

was ‘Black and White’.

Tuesday’s breakfast was French Toast with all the trimmings. Jerry again gave devotions and we all called an end to the 2023 Swing N Traveler’s camping program.

One additional note: This is my last Chapter Chats for the NSDCA *TIMES*. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to look back on our events through these last years. It is nice to revisit the past from time to time. Thanks to editor Ken Shacter for putting all my words in there. My replacement is a family member that has been writing the Swing N Traveler’s newsletter a long time: my wife’s cousin, Janet Bowman. I am certain she will do a great job!

So, for now, “So long.” I hope to meet you camping or dancing some time.

Bill Baker; grandebill@grics.net

128 Square Wheels; Florida

A big thanks are due to our member-callers, Mark Fetzer and Bill Cassidy, who filled in for Bill Chesnut who was away leading several of our group on a Square Dance cruise to New England and Nova Scotia in September. Mark and Bill played a wide variety of music; I like the oldies, but when I hear more modern music like *Soul Sister* or *Moves Like Jagger* it just feels great. The incomparable club member Susan Snider kept the round dancers on their toes, playing classics and allowing the group some input on what kind of dance they preferred doing. This was Susan’s second month filling in for club cuer Ann Hadsall; many, many thanks!

September is the month that we hold our annual meeting; it is not a surprise that the current Board remains in place for another term: Tim Hill and Angela Brown, Presidents; Wayne and Debbie Miller, Vice Presidents; Laura Ramsey, Secretary; and Mary Chesnut, Treasurer. There were no other nominations from the floor, again, not a surprise.

We ate our brown bag dinners on Friday, and on Saturday evening seven couples went to Pasta Faire for Italian food -- pretty good, and the company was excellent! Friday night Susan Snider won the half and half, and unlike when she and Mark won two separate half and halves at the International Camporee, she was encouraged to keep the pot rather than give it back to the club or a charity.

These past two months we have been a small group camping; October will be an exception, partly because it is the FANSDC 47th Annual State Camporee at Southern Palms RV Resort. More details to follow.

As always keep our members who have had health issues or have lost loved ones in your prayers.

Laura Ramsey, Secretary; ramseydp@comcast.net

152 Campers & Dancers; Alabama

Our Chapter resumed campouts after the break for the National Convention and the International Camporee with an August campout at Noccalula Falls Campground in Gadsden, AL with Kevin Cozad calling. We enjoyed dancing with the Gadsden Twirlers and good food and fellowship.

September found us returning to Yonah Mountain Campground in Cleveland, GA, which is just down the road from Helen, GA. We had a great time dining in Helen and taking in the shops there, as well as dancing to Steve Holzhausen at the campground. Bingo was hosted by the campground and was a great treat!

Fall colors and cool weather greeted us in October as we camped at Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville, AL. We watched a movie, "The Long, Long Trailer" with Lucille Ball and Desi Arnez. It was made in the early '50s, and it had us in stitches as we viewed the antics of them travelling with a 40-foot trailer, which was huge for that time. The next night was a potluck dinner and then dancing with Skip Cleland.

Hope to see you across the square at one of our upcoming campouts next year.

Hank Sweetman 615-406-6917 hanksweetman@gmail.com

153 Strawberry Travelers; Florida

October is the beginning of Chapter 153 Strawberry Travelers' club campout season. I wish I could say it was a BLAST of a start to a new season and a great reunion of members, but it wasn't. We had just received word that a former member, Sally Meyers, had passed away at age 91. Sally and Pops added much laughter and entertainment when they were able to camp and dance with us, but as with many of us, their advancing age began slowing them down. Our prayers are with her family. Sally's Memorial Service was held on Friday, the first day of our club campout, so it began with a bit of sadness. The sadness was to continue though, as unfortunately many members were missing and there were not even enough present to form a square at our first of the season campout weekend, so there was no dance. Some of our members were ill and/or recovering from surgery and were unable to be with us. We all wish them speedy healing and recovery! Some others were attending family events, weddings, reunions, etc., and some were still on the road trying to make it back home from their summer travels. For those few members present it was rather discouraging, but we still had a nice social time of quiet conversation and shared a few meals together. We were also able to work on a few projects that needed finishing in order to be ready for the

('Chats' continued on page 20)



Chats

(‘Chats’ continued from page 19)

47th FANSDC annual State Camporee. This year’s theme was “Celebrate America, Home of the Free Because of the Brave.” Jack and Bev Henry, our club President and Secretary, were the hosts of the Camporee for this year. They are to be highly commended for a fun and successful event! I know they are so grateful for the many attendees from some of the other clubs who stepped right in and added their helping hands with the decorating, set-up and filling in spots and spaces to create a fun, festive, fabulous, fantastic square and round dance Camporee! Here are two pictures to show some of the fun and frolic that took place.



On Saturday evening, the last night of Camporee, John Lowe, a retired career Army veteran, reverently explained the meaning of the thirteen folds of the American flag as it was being folded by Jack Henry and Charlie Pergrossi, also retired military career veterans. Following the folding of the flag, John explained the meaning of each item on the ‘POW/MIA Table’ which had been on display all weekend. The tradition of setting a table to honor our prisoners of war and those missing in action has been in place since the end of the Vietnam War. Both presentations were very emotional and brought tears to the eyes of many people who were touched to learn their meaning.



Future campouts for the Strawberry Travelers are: December 8-10, 2023 at Sun ’n Fun in Lakeland FL; and February 2-4, 2024 at Red Oaks RV in Bushnell, FL. Check us out on www.FANSDC.net or the NSDCA.org website. Trucy Rogers; trucyrogers@gmail.com

C-175 Riverside Gypsy Squares; Ontario, Canada

The Gypsies have wrapped up another dancing season. We have had a great summer. The Callers and Leaders kept us on our toes, the weather cooperated for most of our campouts and we enjoyed the fun and friendship of getting together.

In June we enjoyed a strawberry social. Some of the dancers hulled the berries that were then combined with cake, ice cream and whipped cream. Yum! We danced in the pavil-



ion on the grounds of the Lower Beverley Lake Campground. It was a nice weekend for a stroll around the town when we weren't dancing.

July's events included a barbecue on Saturday night. We were joined by a couple of dancers from the Swinging Bs from Cornwall, ON for our dance Saturday afternoon. It is always a pleasure when they come to dance.

We had a scavenger hunt activity in August. The Saturday morning walking group and a few other couples took part in searching for the answers to the questions asked and we shared the results after our Saturday evening meal, our traditional corn roast.

We met for our final campout of the season in September. This is always a bittersweet time as we enjoy dancing to our guest caller, Geoff Clarke, and we realize that some of us will be winterizing our rigs soon while others make plans to head to warmer climates. After a busy Friday night and Saturday afternoon of dancing we got together for our Annual General Meeting followed by our Potluck Supper. We were joined again by dancers from Cornwall and a guest from Fergus, ON.

Many thanks to the Executive of the Club, the Monthly Committee members and an extra special thank you to Kim Hamilton, Bob Summers and Margaret Thomas for their Calling and Dance Leadership. We are looking forward to being back on the dance floor in Delta, ON the second weekend in May 2024.

Mary Anne Reinhard; mareinhard1@outlook.com; 613-838-5781
181 MontShire Campin' Squares; Vermont/New Hampshire

Due to the severe flooding the end of July, the MontShire Campin' Squares had to cancel their August campout at Horseshoe Acres in Andover, VT. The campground has a small stream that flows next to the road, and it decided to increase its size to include the campground, road, and part of the woods. Gravel and rocks were everywhere, so camping wasn't possible. However, with help from many people around the state, VT is recovering and we anticipate being able to camp and dance next summer at Horseshoe Acres. Our first camp out will be June 7-9, 2024 with Betsy Gotta calling and Roy Gotta cueing. We only have two campouts a season; the second one is August 2-4, once again at Horseshoe Acres. We will be having two callers, Phil Pierce and Denise Carbonell, with Barbara Connelly cueing. As we put our campers away for the winter, we look forward to next summer. Please plan to join us at Horseshoe Acres, in Andover, VT.

Barbara Connelly; BLC614@juno.com; 802-748-9478

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September's Dancing in the Pavilion



Chats

(‘Chats’ continued from page 21)

193 Florida RoadRunner Squares; Florida

Hello Friends!

It’s Christmas time and once again I’m asking, “Where did this year go?” These holidays are a beautiful time, I certainly could use a couple of extra hours in each day. Our Chapter got back together in September after the hot summer. We were all thrilled to have Chuck, our great Cuer,

with us—as he battled with health issues all summer. Praises to God he is strong and continuing his awesome cueing. Those of our club who made it to the Lebanon Camporee shared the beaded scarf craft with the others. As you can see, we made some awesome scarves (→). A shout out of thanks to Peggy Houston of



Chapter 153 who taught us well at the International Camporee! We also welcomed a new caller and his law to our club in September; John and Beply Sweeney are an awesome couple. We really challenged him as our numbers were down and many had not danced in a while, so to say we were rusty would be putting it very mildly!



In October we did lots better. We got caught up in the autumn leaves and crafted little leaf bowls. It made a very sticky project doing them, but they all turned out so cute. Do you know how hard it is to find fall leaves on the ground down here

in Florida? But alas, no problem; the stores are full of them (fake ones that is) which worked fine. Our venue, Wekiva Falls RV Park, served pizza on Friday for dinner and then breakfast for all of us on Saturday. Don’t you just love it when someone else does the cooking for you occasionally? It was



an easy and fun filled weekend. We left the weekend looking forward to our Florida State camporee just two weeks later. A tribute to our great country and honoring our loved veterans was the theme. I will have to share the pictures with you in the next *TIMES* as I am writing this before it happens.

November is, of course, Turkey Time - and that's our weekend theme; I'm not sure just what our craft will be, but I am positive that we will have another fabulous time together and all get stuffed just like the turkey!

By the way, I hope you are all making your plans to be in Fond du Lac, WI. for the 66th NSDCA International Camporee. Tricia and Neal Chartier, our newest Board members, are hard at work putting together a great camporee for you in 2024. They are offering Camporee T-Shirts (see page 59) and have planned some very creative and fun ways to embellish them as one of our crafts. You won't want to miss out on this!

Please check out our campout listings at www.nsdca.org or our 193 website: www.whirlaways.org/rr_193_index.html.

Enjoy your winter and as always... "We hope to see you all in a square somewhere!"

Dolly Ide; dloutz9504@outlook.com; 352-598-7162

196 Wabash Valley Wheel-a-Rounds; Indiana/Illinois/Ohio

It has been a very good year for our group; we have grown and developed many new relationships. This was realized when two couples from our group reached out to a local caller that had serious health issues. He lives in Northern Indiana but has been calling in Harlingen, Texas for several years and had a 'park model' home he was not going to be able to go back to. Needless to say, a lot of personal property was in Texas and needed to be brought back to Indiana. The two couples arranged to drive to Texas and retrieve the items to help relieve some of the stress the caller and his wife were under. The trip down took two days, one day of packing (in 104-degree weather) and three days to return with the loaded U-Haul trailer that blew a tire on the way back. Square dancers DO look out for each other!



Nancy Holzhausen enjoys a snack at the Camporee

Our group has continued our camping adventures with trips to a really fun dance in Nauvoo, IL. The Nauvoo Rendezvous was held in August with Tom Manning and Curt Braffet. This was well attended and very much enjoyed by all. The area was very interesting, with lots of historical information and a restoration of the Mormon Settlement His-

(Chats' continued on page 24)



Chats

(‘Chats’ continued from page 23)

toric Site. We did, however, manage to find a Mexican restaurant to eat at for one of our evening meals. Another highlight was visiting a local museum on a steamship with a very knowledgeable curator/guide. The wonderful



Good times in Nauvoo, IL

French Toast breakfast provided one morning was cooked by the Bakers, and needs to be mentioned. They can cook for us anytime! The picture included this month is of our attendees at this outing. A BIG THANK YOU to the host of this campground should also be mentioned; Dawn went above and beyond in making us feel welcome.

September took us back to Carlock, IL to dance with Curt Braffet and visit the Braffet Berry Farm – a definite highlight of this outing. Thanks so much Curt and Peggy for your hospitality.

October was a special dance for us; we went back to the Fairgrounds at Rockville for the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival and continued the tradition of dancing at the Bridge in Mecca. Thanks to caller Janet Lewis we were able to give several demonstrations for the visiting public a taste of square dancing that will hopefully result in their going back home and looking for a dance. We elected new Club Officers and started making plans for next year’s outings. Several of our members attended the CallerLab dance nearby, and a dance with a club in Terre Haute on the way to the Fairgrounds - making this a busy last outing. There is a picture on the previous page of Nancy Holzhausen enjoying a treat of a piece of chocolate covered Key Lime pie on a stick that was found nearby to the Fairgrounds at a local eatery.

Some of us will end our dance/camp season by attending the Indiana State Dance Convention in French Lick, IN in November. We will be starting our next season in April in Ohio and a trip back to Shipshewana, IN in May. We invite everyone to attend the Illinois State Camporee at the Rockville Fairgrounds, Rockville, IN from May 31 to June 2, 2024. Details will be in the dance calendar on the NSDCA website soon as they are put together by the Wagonmasters.

WVWA wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and offer you an invitation to come find us around our campfires anytime.

Safe travels and God's Blessing to all.

Karen Gerbers; dkgerbers@gmail.com; 260-403-4846

198 Crossfire Campers; Tennessee

As a small Chapter, planning and pulling off the 65th NSDCA International Camporee took up a lot of our time and energy for 2023. We would again like to thank everyone who volunteered to make it a success.

Our membership did have several medical and personal issues in 2023, but hopefully, most are behind us now. As the year comes to an end, our Chapter is re-energized and making plans for 2024 and beyond. We hope to have several campouts to announce in the Spring issue of the *TIMES*.

We look forward to seeing you across a square and/or campfire. We wish everyone safe travels, happy holidays and a healthy New Year.

Ruth Osborn; crossfirecampers198@gmail.com; 518-859-0734

NSDCA's E-Tree

What do the Pony Express, snail mail and FedEx all have in common? They're all ways to get your message sent (and, hopefully, delivered!) But wait, there's a better way! It's FREE, more reliable, and just about instant! But, you do have to leave it up to the recipients to read and act upon it. What is this new fangled thing, you ask? It's the E-Tree. Yep, that's shorthand for NSDCA's Electronic Delivery Email Notification System. It's been in place for a couple of years now, so, unless you've been disconnected in every way, you should have received at least one communication via the E-Tree. Soooo, what exactly is it? So glad you've asked!

As do most organizations, NSDCA has a hierarchy of representatives in place. We have the National Board, State Representatives, Chapter Representatives, a few administrative posts and, of course, our valuable Chapter Members. Everybody needs to know stuff sometimes, and sometimes, various parties need to disseminate specific information, quickly and reliably. That's where the E-Tree comes in. All Chapters should be keeping an up-to-date list of all the members AND their members' email addresses. Whenever a member of the Board has important and relevant NSDCA information to spread, a detailed message should be e-mailed to the Communication Director (currently, that's me, Karin Callander, at kcallander989@gmail.com). That e-mail should include a greeting, the intended audience (whether it should be delivered to ALL members, or just Administrative members), obviously, the message itself, a deadline date, if there is one, a location or address, if relevant, and a contact name, phone number and email address.

(‘E-Tree’ continued on page 26)

(‘E-Tree’ continued from page 25)

The Communication Director will send out a notification, via the E-Tree Google Group, and it will be delivered, immediately, to all the Administrative Reps, the Board, and the Chapter Reps. If it is meant to be shared widely, the Chapter Reps will be asked to distribute (forward) the e-mail to all their members. Then it is incumbent upon the membership to simply open and read their e-mail. What could be easier?

Now, one thing to keep in mind... when you send your message to the Communication Director, it will be scanned for proper syntax, spelling errors, and not much else. The messages are typically copied and pasted, exactly as originally written, into the Google Group New Notification form, and sent on their merry way. So, remember, we are all human, and try as hard as we might, there may be occasional errors or typos, or simply factual oversights. Have grace and understanding; just indicate the error and the Communication Director will work as quickly as possible to issue a correction. Also, these messages are limited to information that the NSDCA members will find important and informative. There is to be NO spam of ANY sort. Specifically, this means, no jokes, no memes, no riddles, no politics/religion, etc. In addition, the Communications Director typically has only the information originally provided, so all responses should be directed back to the person listed within the message as the Contact.

Should your Chapter Rep change, you’ll want to let the Membership Chair know (find that information on page 51 of this issue!) and she will, in turn, inform the Communication Director, so that the E-Tree Notification list may be updated accordingly.

Thanks for reading along! I hope it’s all clear as can be and I hope to see you across the square!

Karin Callander, NSDCA Communication Director

(‘President’ continued from page 4)

warding activity providing not only service to all our camping dancers but rewarding fellowship with new friends at the national level.

Please consider the opportunities presented to you for fun and dancing while travelling and camping. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and blessings for the New Year.

Dolly & John



66th NSDCA International Camporee



Hooray...We Got It!

June 18 - 20, 2024

Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Now it's your turn "Register Today"

Neal & Tricia Chartier

2024 Camporee Chairmen

Here's a few things to do in the Fond du Lac area:

- ◆ **Golf** at the beautiful **Rolling Hills Golf course**
- ◆ **Fondy Aqua Park** (a short walk from the fairgrounds)
- ◆ **Kelley Country Creamery Homemade ice cream...**now who doesn't like ice cream?
- ◆ **Faris Gourmet Popcorn & Treats**
- ◆ **Lots of Fish Frys and Great Restaurants**
- ◆ **Lake Winnebago** (Fond du Lac is French for "bottom of the lake", given so because of it's location at the southern shore)
- ◆ **Lakeside Park** (Lighthouse, Carousel, Mini Train plus water pedal boats , canoes, etc. rentals)



and the FUN continues...

There were 27 entries this time (all of which were correct) identifying the location of the lost campers for the Fall issue's contest. Our very own Publicity Directory, Bill and Kathy Baker, of (no surprise again!) Swing 'N' Travelers (#123, IL) was randomly chosen by the computer as the winner of this contest. Congratulations Bill and Kathy; your 2024 NSDCA membership fee will be waived.

I am pleased to have received several more clever comments with submissions for this contest:

Ruthann Sanders (#044, IL/IN) indicated "I carefully reviewed every photo deliberately skipping the inside front and back covers. Nope, I don't see it; I'm not looking again. I guess I'm not entering this time. However, as I closed the magazine... there it is ... STILL in TN!"

Our perennial punster, Jim Sebesta (#045, PA) stated, "I know some people treat their dogs like family (there's a dog in the photo) but Tony and Lou are the only ones I know who treat their car like family (theirs is the only car in the photo)."

Jim Waller (#123, IL) opined, "The camper was photo bombing and trying to sneak in the full-width group picture." while John and Carol Scher (#123, IL) said, "Camper is on inside back cover... it looks like everyone on the bus is waving to him!!!"

Frank Golden (#116, KS) wondered, "How can they get everybody in the camper? They must have camper a mile long!"

Pat Edwards (#123, IL) noted, "This camper is not going to be left out of the group picture even though it is almost off the edge. If John "Sam" Hand took a giant step forward, I believe he would step right on that camper."

The very talented Michael Gelinis (#106, PA) had an interesting observation: "I believe Tony and Lou have found a way to save gas on their way to the Camporee in Wisconsin. They're riding on top of the bus ... it appears they have parked on the bus roof and are hitching a ride down the road. A great way to save gas! I believe they may have stopped at the Grand Ole Opry House for some entertainment along the way."

Sally Foley (#014, IL) indicated, "Tony & Lou Bergett have stopped off to admire the wall of photos from the 65th Annual Camporee, admiring the group shot of attendees. Certainly an awesome sight to take in the view of these happy dancers."

Dwaine and Bert Dunn (# 123, IL) noted, "They want to make sure everyone knows that they made it to the Camporee and hope that someone can lead them to the next one without getting lost so many times."

Debbie Cassidy (#128, FL) asked, “Were they grateful to be found? Actually, they confided in me that they had a lot of time before the Wisconsin Camporee and were taking a very circuitous route sightseeing. They assured me that they would not miss it and would have their GPS in working order.”

Barry and Joy Vlad (#123, IL) noted, “Tony and Lou are above the bus trip photo ... waiting for the group to disburse so that they can all caravan to Wisconsin for the 66th NSDCA International Camporee.”

This issue’s winner, Bill Baker (#123, IL) said, “Looks like it was looking to get into the group photo and it’s headed to next year Campo-

(‘Lost Camper’ continued on page 34)

Chapter name	chapter #	Entrant
Blackhawk Crosstrailers (IL)	014	Marie Berridge Sally Foley Cherie Arch
Camping Squares of Kansas (KS)	116	Mike Huddleson
Illiana Square Wheelers (IL/IN)	44	Ruthann & Lawrence Sanders Larina Sanders
Northwoods Stompers (MI)	121	Marjorie Tudor
Penn-Dixie Square Campers (PA)	045	Jim Sebesta
Rolling Squares (NE)	148	Marion Niemeyer
Square Wheels (FL)	128	Mark Fetzer Debbie & Bill Cassidy
Square-Up Campers (PA)	106	Michael Gelinas
Strawberry Travelers (FL)	153	Susan & Don Wolford
Swing ‘N’ Travelers (IL)	123	Pat Edwards Jim & Sharon Waller John & Carol Scher Dwayne & Bert Dunn Barry & Joy Vlad Chet & Janet Bowman Bill & Kathy Baker Jim & Naomi Mills Norm Schertz Jerry & Judy Boutelle Dave & Mary Bruun Ron & Sue Mayer
Wabash Valley Wheel Arounds (IN/IL)	196	James Huffman Kerry Richmond



CAMP & DANCE 'TIL THE COWS COME HOME

66th INTERNATIONAL NSDCA CAMPOREE

Fond du Lac Fairground

520 Fond du Lac Ave., Fond du Lac, WI 54935

June 18, 19, 20, 2024: Camporee Events



NSDCA Membership # _____

NON-Member - (Requires added \$20 Surcharge-See Below)

Information for PARKING by LOCATION & RV NEEDS

ARRIVAL 06/_____/2024 DEPARTURE 06/_____/2024

STATE _____ CHAPTER # _____ HANDICAP _____

ELECTRIC: All 50 Amps HONEY WAGON(Add\$)_____

Adult Name #1 (Please Print) _____

Adult Name #2 (Please Print) _____

Mailing Address (Include Apt and/or Box number) _____

City _____ State/Province & Zip/ Postal _____

Phone Number (cell phone preferred--include area code) _____

Email address (Please Print in CAPITAL LETTERS) _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Phone # _____

Additional Persons per Unit (Base Fees are for two Adults per unit and unmarried children under age 21)

Youth Name _____ Age ____ M F Adult Name _____ Age ____ M F

CAMPOREE T-SHIRTS: \$20 (# of Each): SM ____ MED ____ LG ____ XLG ____ XXLG ____ XXXLG ____

*Shirts available by **Pre-Order ONLY** & must be picked up at Camporee with order deadline of **05/01/2024***

NSDCA Camporee Fees: 3 Days...\$180 2 Days...\$150 1 Day...\$120 (ALL FEES IN US FUNDS ONLY)

Please X days planning to camp: (Extra Days Campsite Fees @ \$45 per day) NonCampers ____ \$90

Sat 15th ____ Sun 16th ____ Mon 17th ____ Tues 18th ____ Wed 19th ____ Thur 20th ____

Unit with only one person (check): _____ Deduct \$45; Extra adults # ____ \$45 each; Non NSDCA \$20

Registration \$ _____	Extra Fees \$ _____	Add'l Days \$ _____	Total Fees \$ _____
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DANCE INTERESTS (X Interests)

<u>Square Dance</u>	<u>Round Dance</u>	<u>Line Dance</u>
____ Mainstream	____ Phase II	____ Lines
____ Plus	____ Phase III	____ Contra
____ A-1/ A-2	____ Phase IV/ V	____ Partner
____ MS Workshop	____ Plus WS	____ A WS
____ Youth/Teen Program	____ SSD Workshop	

SPORTS/GAMES (X Interests)

Corn Hole ____ M ____ F Washer Toss ____ M ____ F
 Bocce Ball ____ M ____ F Other _____

Craft Interests Male ____ Female ____ Youth ____
 Other _____

Are you a Veteran? _____ (Branch) _____

Caller and Cuer Participation

(Due by April 1)

<u>Square Dance</u>	<u>Round Dance</u>
____ Mainstream	____ Phase II
____ Plus	____ Phase III
____ A-1	____ Phase IV
____ A-2	____ Phase V
____ Youth/Teen Dance Program	____ Other

Caller Name _____
 Availability (circle) M T W Th F

Cuer Name _____
 Availability (circle) M T W Th F

Lines Instructor _____
 Availability (circle) M T W Th F

If you would like your ribbons sent with your confirmation, please include a self-addressed, stamped business (#10) envelope with your registration. Refunds are available with a written request.

Send check or money order payable in US Funds to "66th NSDCA Camporee" to:
Tricia Chartier, 4139 N. 96th Street, Wauwatosa WI 53222-1528

For more info, contact Tricia Chartier 414-807-4083 66thNSDCACamporee@gmail.com

Camping Tips for Wisconsin 2024

From your 2024 NSDCA Camporee Chairmen:

Tricia & Neal Chartier

After you all have an awesome time with us, June 18 –20, “Dancing Till the Cows Come Home.” You will need a campground for the Nationals in Milwaukee, June 26—29.

On Friday you will want to move down to a campground closer to Milwaukee. Summer is their tourist time, so act quickly. It would be great to have a whole bunch of us camping and caravanning together.

1. Cliffside Campground

(County/State Park) 262-886-8440,
7320 Mishna Rd, Racine, WI 53402



2023 Rates: \$35/\$12 rsvp fee & 5% tax. They have 92 sites, water/ electric (30/50) only dump stations; near Lake Michigan. (says 20 min ride to lake) about 95 miles southeast of Fond du Lac. & about 30 miles from the Convention Ctr. They begin bookings on Jan. 1, Act quickly, they will fill up fast!

Google **Cliffside Park Campground** for details.

2. Country View Campground

(private) 262-662-3654,
110 W26400 Craig Ave., Mukwonago, WI
2023 Rates: \$42 W/E \$47 FHU 30 amp only & has pool; about 82 miles south of Fond du Lac & about 40 miles from Convention Ctr. They begin to take reservations early May.



Start your plans
REGISTER TODAY

*Get Ahead
of the Herd*



National Square Dance Campers Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 241
Butler, WI 53007-9998



Rev. 7/2023

Membership Application or Renewal

New Application _____ or Renewal _____ (Check Only One) Date: _____

Assigned to Chapter # _____ Chapter Name: _____

This application is to be used either for new membership applications or renewal of member.

Name(s):	First:	Last:
	First:	Last:

How should your name be printed on your badge? IF the same, write SAME.

For your Badge:	First:	Last:
	First:	Last:
Address 1:	Street:	
	City:	
	State/Province:	Zip+4:
Phone:	Home:	His Cell: Her Cell:
E-Mail:	His:	Hers:

If you live at a different address for part of the year, please provide it here:

Address 2:	Street:	
	City:	
	State/Province:	Zip+4:

If you completed Address 2, please indicate to which address you would like the specific issue of the quarterly mailing of the NSDCA Times, sent:

March Issue	June Issue	September Issue	December Issue
Address #:	Address #:	Address #:	Address #:

*New Member Fee (Valid from current or prior Camporee through December 31 of the following year):
Annual Member Renewal Fee (Due December 31st for following Calendar year: January - December):*

For a Member Couple: \$20.00	For a Single Member: \$10.00	
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Cost of Badges:

Safety Pin Badge: \$10.00 ea.	Magnet Badge: \$13.00 ea.	
	Total Submitted:	

Make check payable to NSDCA. Please send your completed application with your remittance (in US funds only) to:

**NSDCA Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 241
Butler, WI 53007-9998**

Also Visit Us At: www.nsdca.org

(‘Lost Camper’ continued from page 29)

ree based on the direction the nose is pointed.”

Chet and Janet Bowman (#123, IL) noted, “Glad the camper is tiny. Maybe everyone won’t realize that they are late getting to Nationals! I guess they need to set their clocks ahead for next year’s trip so they will make it on time!”

Mary Bruun (#123, IL) commented, “Well Tony & Lou made it to the 65th Camporee, but just in time to have their picture taken with the attendees for the final night of dancing. I’m sure they will be meeting up with us again in their home state of Wisconsin for the 66th Camporee at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds.”

Sue Mayer (#123, IL) thought, “He’s looking for an exit across the floor before a large white poodle can scoop him up.”

Kerry Richmond (#196, IN/IL) figured, “The lost camper appears to be running late to the group photo at the Camporee.”

Larina Sanders (#044, IL/IN) indicated, “They sure did not want to miss out on the group photo.”

Marjorie Tudor (#121, MI) proffered, “Tony and Lou have had many lost adventures and decided to make sure to get into the picture of all the attendees at the International Camporee in Lebanon TN to prove they did get there eventually. I would suggest they start now to make it to Wisconsin by next June. Snow will certainly make the trip quite a bit slower and campgrounds harder to find! Good Luck.”

Thank goodness Tony & Lou were found and eventually made it to the 2023 International Camporee, but this time Howie & Bev have lost their way and have become separated from the convoy to the 2024 International Camporee in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Recall they are in the middle of the caravan and are a truck bed slide-in camper (see page 15 of the Summer 2019 issue for background on the caravan and images of each traveler). Please see if you can locate them in this issue and give them directions to the 2024 Camporee in Wisconsin!

Remember we’ll have a special recognition and award at the 2024 Camporee at Wisconsin for the Chapter with the most entries. Let’s see if a Chapter can best the long-reigning champs! Good luck!

You can’t win if you don’t enter (but in order to win you must be a member in good standing). This is *your* newsletter! Send your answer either via: 1) email to NSDCAtimes@gmail.com or 2) by regular mail to **Ken Shacter, 5418 Weller Place, Jacksonville, FL 32211-6965** (either method to arrive no later than January 31, 2024) . Please provide the page number *and* where on the page our wayward campers are located. Simply providing something like “on the bottom of page 2” is insufficient; however, if you write something clever like the contributors listed earlier did, it gives a good indication you have properly located our lost campers, and you may get your answer published! Please note any comments provided with your submission implies giving your permission to publish.

Be sure to include your Chapter's number and name, regardless of the way you choose to communicate. Thank you.

Lost Camper Contest Clarifications

I am tickled pink regarding the participation in the 'Search for the Lost Camper' contest (although I wish there were more). Some clarification on how the winner's membership fee is waived needs further clarification, for even I was confused!

The winner will have their fee waived for the FOLLOWING membership year (e.g., the winner for this issue's contest will have their membership dues waived for the 2024 membership year). It is up to the member and their Chapter to note that fact when submitting their next-year's membership list. As a reminder, starting with this issue an electronic certificate will be emailed to the winner shortly after the paper copy of the *TIMES* is delivered to members' mailboxes. The winner should print this certificate and present it to their Chapter's Membership Chair or Treasurer to be submitted with the registration update.

I am also pleased with the additional clever comments provided by many contest entrants. Starting with entries for this issue's contest, any comments provided with the contest entry will imply the member's permission to possibly have them excerpted and published in the *TIMES*.

Thank you for your understanding of these changes and your participation in this activity.

A 'Thank you' note from Donate Life Tennessee

Ruth,

Thank you for inviting Donate Life Tennessee to be a part of the NSDCA 2023 Jamporee or better yet camporee.

The funds raised keep support educational programs in Tennessee.

Again

Thank you

Sharon

Ruth-
Thank you for inviting Donate Life Tennessee to use a part of the NSDCA 2023 Jamporee or better yet camporee.
The funds raised keep support educational programs in Tennessee -
Again Thank you Sharon



Sharon Pakis
Manager, Public Education

Tennessee Donor Services

Main 888.234.4440

Cell 615.202.6386

Email Sharon.pakis@dcids.org

566 Mainstream Dr, Ste 300, Nashville TN 37228

tds.dcids.org

NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR

We are officially still in Fall, yet this is the Winter issue. Such are the vagaries and scheduling concerns of producing a printed newsletter. Here in north-east Florida, the intense heat of Summer has faded into weather where you can actually feel good about opening your house windows.



I was recently reminded that the ‘Chapter Contact’ information presented in the *TIMES* contains some factual errors. In this case the contact person had changed (quite a while back) but the old information was still reflected, and a wrong email address was also listed. I rely on several people to proofread each issue, but we are only human and will miss some things, especially if we are not aware of changes that have been made. Therefore, I request all Chapters have someone knowledgeable review all Chapter-specific contact information in this issue of the *TIMES* to verify it is correct. If there are errors or corrections, please email me (NSDCAtimes@gmail.com) with the updated information. I will let our Membership Chair, Kathy Nickel, also know about the change. This is just one more reason to ensure Chapter membership information (name, address, phone and email) are kept current.

Here’s another request: as soon as your Chapter has decided on the 2024 camping schedule, have the responsible person go to the NSDCA website and enter that information so it can be posted to the website as well as printed in the appropriate issue of the *TIMES*. You’ll note that there are only a few Chapters that have provided that information so far.

As long as I’m making requests, I’ve previously discussed what we do for road “insurance” – not the usual state-mandated collision and liability insurance, but a policy purchased to make towing and other road-hazard related challenges less financially taxing. What do you do to help protect yourself from large unexpected expenses while on the road? A long dissertation is not required for a response, just a short note indicating how you handle this is fine. Is there something about your current provider you have found exceptional, or something from your current or previous provider you’d caution others about? I’d like to have a column on this topic in a future issue; it’s something that affects us all at one time or another. Please email me (NSDCAtimes@gmail.com) your solutions for this topic. Thanks.

As mentioned in the Fall issue, we recently purchased a new Coachmen Class C motorhome, but it required substantial “fixing” as it was built during the peak of COVID (an excuse, not a reason) and then the dealer cannibalized it for parts and neglected it while it sat on the lot for nearly 18 months before we bought it. The dealer (who shall go unnamed, but from our previous experience is typical of all the larger chains) proved themselves not only unresponsive after the sale but fairly incom-

petent relating to work they did do on the unit before we purchased it, so we opted to go to the Coachmen factory to have the warranty-related items resolved – a service Coachmen appear to offer to all of their customers. After spending almost two weeks at the facility (during which time we either stayed at their free on-site campground or they put us up in a very nice inn when we could not stay in the motorhome due to work-related issues) we are extremely pleased with our decision to make that road trip, and exceptionally pleased at the customer service their representatives showered on us. They went above and beyond what we expected, and did not offer resistance to our requests to fix major items (e.g., a new roof – something the dealer brushed off as a nuisance request) or minor ones (e.g., a new grab bar to make it easier to enter and exit the RV). Based on prior warranty-related issues with other RVs we’ve had, the dealer seems to not be working in your best interest: they try to run the clock out so they can charge you full-fare for the work that should have been fixed under warranty (or better yet, delivered properly from the factory). This was certainly not the case with Coachmen – they provided some items the dealer should have taken care of before selling us the RV (e.g., including two house batteries as advertised versus the one provided). About the only thing they didn’t do was fill up our LP or gas tanks! They wanted happy campers and satisfied customers, and they certainly met their objective.

I asked for 2024 campout schedule submissions above. Regarding any additions or amendments to any schedule previously provided, it will help me greatly if you would first check what you currently have posted on the website before making a new entry; over the past few months I have received a few duplicates of campouts that were already on the calendar. The wording in the comments section for the ‘new’ submission was slightly different for the original entry, but there is no substantial difference between the two. To see only your Chapter’s entries on the NSDCA website, type the following into your browser’s address bar: <http://nsdca.org/campouts.php?q=XXX> (that’s a lower case ‘Q’) and replace the ‘XXX’ with the three-digit numeric code for your Chapter (leading zeros are required). Thank you!

I have not received any input regarding new campground venues as previously requested. Let us know what challenges you face with new or existing facilities and how you solve (or at least ameliorate) them. Also, Publicity Director Bill Baker’s idea for “We tried this, and it worked great!” is still awaiting contributions.

Again, if you are unsure of what to do, drop me an email (NSDCAtimes@gmail.com) and I’ll see what I can do to help you complete your task. I try to acknowledge receipt of your email within a day or two, so if you don’t hear anything back from me, double check the email address you sent it to, and try again. Thanks!

Chapter Campouts

The following listings were last updated on November 1, 2023. The start day for events is Friday unless otherwise noted. Due to the nationwide disruption of group activities because of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, campouts or other listed events may have been cancelled due to local conditions. Please check with the campout contact(s) to confirm the status of the event before making your plans to attend. Thank you.

December 1 → 2

128 Square Wheels: Florida

The Springs RV Resort

2950 NE 52nd Ct., Silver Springs, FL; 352-236-5250

Rally rate \$45.00 per night. They will honor Passport America for 3 days. If staying longer than 3 days, additional days will be at \$50/night.

Must call campground to make your reservation. You may have to remind them of the rally rate and no deposit required per Garrett Landreth. Deposits will not be refunded.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell 352-214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com or Tim Hill; 352-205-0596; or Angela Brown; 352-408-5721

Thursday December 7 → 10

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Wekiva Falls RV Resort

30700 River Road, Sorrento, FL; 352-268-9556 or 352-383-8055

FL RoadRunner weekends begin w/Early Bird Thursday & end w/Breakfast on Sunday. Make your reservation, then let Louise know you're coming. Christmas Party Weekend!

Louise Woodward; 772-577-3882; wlouise5712@gmail.com

December 8 → 9

153 Strawberry Travelers: Florida

Sun ' Fun Fly-in, Inc

4175 Medulla Rd, Lakeland, FL

Dance: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Potluck Saturday: 5:00 pm

Gift Exchange after Saturday Dance, \$10.00 limit

Susan Wolford; 256-673-0170; 2susanwolf@gmail.com

Thursday January 11 → 14, 2024

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Highlands Hammock State Park

5931 Hammock Rd, Sebring, FL; 772-577-3882

Sites at Highlands Hammock State Park have been pre-registered, please call John to check for availability. We dance in the afternoons and have campfire fun in the evenings. This is the MLK holiday weekend.

John Ide; 352-208-5980; john.d.ide@hotmail.com

January 19 → 20, 2024

128 Square Wheels: Florida

The Center At Deltona

1640 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd, Deltona; FL
Trail-In Dance at The Center, Thursday 18th
Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell (352) 214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com or
Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 or Angela Brown; 352-408-5721;
doramiata62@yahoo.com

February 2 → 3, 2024

153 Strawberry Travelers: Florida

Red Oaks RV Park

5551 SW 18th Terrace, Bushnell, FL; 352-793-7117

Rally Rate: \$35.00/night

Dance: Fri & Sat: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Potluck Saturday: 5:00 pm

Susan Wolford; 256-673-0170; 2susanwolf@gmail.com

Thursday February 8 → 11, 2024

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Red Oaks RV Park

5551 SW 18th Terrace, Bushnell, FL; 352-793-7117

FL RoadRunner weekends begin w/Early Bird Thursday & end w/Breakfast on
Sunday. Make your reservation, then let Louise know you're coming.

Louise Woodward; 772-577-3882; wlouise5712@gmail.com

February 16 → 17, 2024

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Eagle Roost RV Resort

5465 Mill Store Rd, Lake Park, GA; 229-559-5192

Rate is \$38.34 including all taxes.

Must make your own reservation, deposit required.

Also, they have cabins to rent.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell (352) 214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com or

Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 or Angela Brown; 352-408-5721;

doramiata62@yahoo.com

Thursday March 7 → 10, 2024

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Highlands Hammock State Park

5931 Hammock Rd, Sebring, FL; 772-577-3882

Sites at Highlands State Park have been pre-registered, please call John to check
for availability. We dance in the afternoons and have campfire fun in the eve-
nings.

John Ide; 352-208-5980; john.d.ide@hotmail.com

Help save your Association money and receive your *TIMES* on time! If you are re-
locating or moving, please use the web form to update your mailing address. See the
Change of Address form on page 46 of this issue. Thanks!

(‘Campouts’ continued on page 40)

Chapter Campouts—continued

(‘Campouts’ continued from page 39)

March 15 → 16, 2024

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Red Oaks RV Park

5551 SW 18th Terrace, Bushnell, FL; 352-793-7117

Rally rate - \$30/night

We will be dancing in the larger “Boots Hall”.

You must call campground and pre-register with a deposit.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell (352) 214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com or

Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 or Angela Brown; 352-408-5721;

doramiaata62@yahoo.com

April 5 → 6, 2024

153 Strawberry Travelers: Florida

Strawberry Square

4401 Promenade Blvd, Plant City, FL

Dry camping available; contact Strawberry Square at 813-752-0491

Camper lots available; also contact Strawberry Square at the above number

Dancing Fri & Sat: 7:00-9:00 pm; Pot Luck: Saturday, 5:00 pm

Susan Wolford; 256-673-0170; 2susanwolf@gmail.com

Thursday April 11 → 14, 2024

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Wekiva Falls RV Resort

30700 River Road, Sorrento, FL; 352-268-9556 or 352-383-8055

FL RoadRunner weekends begin w/Early Bird Thursday & end w/Breakfast on Sunday. Make your reservation, then let Louise know you’re coming.

Louise Woodward; 772-577-3882; wlouise5712@gmail.com

April 19 → 20, 2024

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Stephen Foster Cultural Center State Park

11016 Lillian Saunders Dr. Hwy 41, White Springs, FL; 800-326-3521 or 386-397-4331

Rate normally \$20/night plus \$7/night for electricity (plus \$6.70 reservation fee), but \$10/night for Florida resident seniors. Must show proof of age and residency.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell (352) 214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com or Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 or Angela Brown; 352-408-5721;

doramiaata62@yahoo.com

Thursday May 9 → 12, 2024

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Hammondell Campsites And RV Park

5601 Cypress Gardens Rd, Winter Haven, FL; 863-324-5775

FL RoadRunner weekends begin w/Early Bird Thursday & end w/Breakfast on Sunday. Make your reservation, then let Louise know you’re coming.

Louise Woodward; 772-577-3882; wlouise5712@gmail.com

May 17 → 19, 2024

121 Northwood Stompers: Michigan

Hidden Hill Family Campground

300 N Clare Ave., Harrison, MI; 989-539-9372
contact campground for reservations
Marjorie Tudor; 989-275-6197; mtudor46@gmail.com

May 17 → 18, 2024

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Southern Oaks RV Resort

14140 SE Hwy 441, Summerfield, FL; 352-347-2550
Rally Rate \$34/night (subject to change).
Must make your own reservations at the campground.
Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell (352) 214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com or
Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 or Angela Brown; 352-408-5721;
doramiata62@yahoo.com

June 14 → 16, 2024

121 Northwood Stompers: Michigan

Hidden Hill Family Campground

300 N Clare Ave., Harrison, MI; 989-539-9372
contact campground for reservations
Marjorie Tudor; 989-275-6197; mtudor46@gmail.com

Thursday July 18 → 21, 2024

♥♥♥ 66th NSDCA International Camporee ♥♥♥

Fond du Lac Fairgrounds

520 Fond du Lac Ave., Fond du Lac, WI
Tricia Chartier; 414-807-4083; secnsdca@gmail.com
Hosted by Chapter 002, Pine Tree Campers

Thursday July 18 → 21, 2024

121 Northwood Stompers: Michigan

Covenant Hills Camp & Retreat

10359 E Farrand Rd, Otisville, MI; 810-631-4531
48th Annual Michigan NSDCA Camporee
Gary and Elaine Demand; GandEDemand@gmail.com; 989-777-5697

August 9 → 12, 2024

121 Northwood Stompers: Michigan

Blyth Arena and District Community Centre

377 Gypsy Lane, Blyth, ON N0G 2W0; 519-523-9600
NSDCA Ontario Camporee
Marjorie Tudor; 989-275-6197; mtudor46@gmail.com

August 23 → 25, 2024

121 Northwood Stompers: Michigan

Hidden Hill Family Campground

300 N Clare Ave., Harrison, MI; 989-539-9372
contact campground for reservations
Marjorie Tudor; 989-275-6197; mtudor46@gmail.com



Chapter Campouts—continued

(‘Campouts’ continued from page 41)

September 20 → 22, 2024

121 Northwood Stompers: Michigan

Hidden Hill Family Campground

300 N Clare Ave., Harrison, MI; 989-539-9372

contact campground for reservations

Marjorie Tudor; 989-275-6197; mtudor46@gmail.com

PLEASE BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR CHAPTER'S CAMPOUT SCHEDULE UPDATED. VISITORS AND GUESTS CAN'T FIND YOU IF YOU DON'T LET THEM KNOW WHERE YOU ARE. BESIDES HERE IN THE *TIMES*, THIS LISTING IS ALSO POSTED ON THE NSDCA WEBSITE (NSDCA.ORG) WHICH IS REGULARLY UPDATED WITH EVERY NEW ISSUE OF THE *TIMES*, AND IS ALSO UPDATED WHEN YOU SEND IN NEW OR REVISED CAMPOUT INFORMATION. PLEASE USE THE ONLINE CAMPOUT SCHEDULE FORM AT NSDCA.ORG.

GPS Search (part 2)

The things a GPS can do for you these days are absolutely amazing! When paired with a smart phone and its associated app, our unit can provide traffic updates, link to traffic cameras to view live video feeds, tell you about the weather, receive texts and calendar alerts from your phone, and allow you to make and receive phone calls; in stand alone mode (or paired) it can warn you when it's time to take a driving break, alert you to when you are speeding or when the speed limit is about to change, and – oh yes – provide directions to get you to your destination. I haven't even exhausted the list of things the GPS can do, but different models have different capabilities, so itemizing all the things this particular model can do is not of general use.

While initially setting the unit up for the first time, I noted that it required a map and software update. Both of these things were handled wirelessly from my home network without needing to attach the GPS to a computer (as has been the approach with all my prior GPS units). Initially the countdown clock indicated it would be about 3.5 hours to complete the update, but the task finished without issue in about an hour. It's taking some time to get used to where Garmin has put things in their menu structure, as well as their nomenclature. An example: the unit will automatically dim the display lighting intensity when it gets dark outside, but where is this located and what is it called? Fortunately, the manual is available as a pdf (I was unable to figure it out by looking at my paper copy's Table of Contents or index) so a search of the pdf eventually turned up the right page to look at (after trying several keywords; I eventually stumbled on searching for 'night' versus what I would have thought was more logical: 'dim').

Some other differences that are taking getting used to: the display is only horizontal (or landscape mode, which shows a large swath on each side of the route) versus being able to be vertical (or portrait mode, which shows a large swath of road you are about to traverse); there's no address book, per se, of favorite places, although it does have a listing of prior destinations and routes, and it also allows you to save locations – features yet to be fully explored. As with all GPS devices, the route it suggests is not necessarily the one you would normally take or the most logical. The GPS wants to send us four miles out of our way to get to a particular doctor's office most of the time, yet other times it chooses the route we normally take. Why? I haven't a clue.

One thing I miss on this new GPS is an audible warning when a turn is approaching. The old unit sounded a 'bell' a short distance before the impending turn, whereas the new unit just mentions a turn is upcoming and doesn't tell you when to take it (unless your eyes are glued to the GPS' display screen, not something I'd recommend). The new GPS also sometimes seems to be a bit lethargic in providing verbal instructions; again, this deals with upcoming turns (the announcement to make the turn occurs after you make the turn!) And while I have turned off most of the annoying bells and whistles dealing with alerts, sometimes one sounds – but I don't know why. Additionally, when we use the GPS in the RV it frequently seems to get 'lost' due to poor satellite signal reception (probably from the cab-over protrusion on our Class C) and has us traveling on side roads or through the countryside!

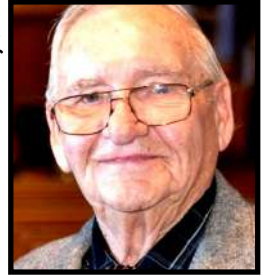
I've yet been able to figure out how to put my own specific route into the GPS, something that was a selling point as I could predefine the route I wanted to take (versus the route it wants me to take, which as noted above isn't always the logical way to go). The online tutorials have been of little help, but I've not yet availed myself of contacting Garmin's technical support department.

Regardless, this GPS is a vast improvement over our former model. I opted to not get an RV-specific GPS due to an RV model costs about 2 ½ times what I paid for this one. The lack of routing based on RV height has never been a problem before; I use a trucker's atlas to ensure the route I plan on taking will accommodate an 18-wheeler, and if so, my short little RV (not quite 11 feet, compared to a semi-trailer's 13 ½ feet) will pass with flying colors. In spite of its many quirks, I'll eventually earn my PhD in Garmin GPS-ology, and learn how to use this device to its fullest capability. Even while using it in its basic mode, it has made travel more 'comfortable.' I still 'back up' its route guidance with using another GPS option (cell phone-based program) and a preplanned paper map – just to be sure and keep everything 'honest'. Today's technology is a blessing, but also demands the user to learn a lot more to use it effectively.

We Remember Our Friends

Ed Claflin (#073, Nebraska Camp ‘N’ Dancers)

February 3, 1935 – September 16, 2023; Ed and Shirley (who predeceased Ed) were members of CallerLab and in the Nebraska Callers Hall of Fame. Ed was also a cuer, and had many square dance students through the years and was the caller for the McCook Family Frolic Club and Camp ‘N’ Dancers.



He was versatile enough that when high school students dropped in on a dance he would immediately get them in a square and teach them some square dancing. His calling took him throughout central and western Nebraska and into the neighboring states.

Submitted by Larry & Carla Tidyman

Charlie Duffield (#073, Nebraska Camp ‘N’ Dancers)

April 22, 1933 – August 15, 2022; Charlie Duffield and his wife Mary were dancers for at least 50 years with The Family Frolics in McCook. They were also active in 073 for many years. He held many offices in both clubs and in the Western Nebraska Square and Round Dance Association.



Charlie worked as a district court reporter for over 30 years, retiring in 1998. He enjoyed creating stained glass and making wooden bowls, camping, playing the piano and square dancing with Mary. Charlie was a member of the local VFW Post No. 1652 and Masonic Lodge No. 135, as well as the Memorial United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Larry & Carla Tidyman

Mabel “Sally” Gregory Meyers (#153, Strawberry Travelers)

June 15, 1932 – October 6, 2023; Sally Meyers, age 91, went to her heavenly home, peacefully in her sleep, at her home in Lakes Wales, FL. She was recovering from recent total hip replacement surgery and looking forward to getting out and about again. Sally and her partner “Pops” were former members of Strawberry Travelers and Buttons & Bows in Lakeland, FL. They also danced at Strawberry Square in Plant City and Lake Ashton in Lake Wales.



Sally never met a stranger and everyone who entered her home always felt welcome. She enjoyed

(“Friends” continued on page 46)

Chocolate Peanut Butter Lasagna

Ingredients:

CRUST:

- 2-¼ cups chocolate graham crackers (or chocolate animal crackers)
- ½ cup butter, melted

PEANUT BUTTER LAYER:

- 8 oz. block cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1-¼ cup peanut butter (Do NOT use natural or other runny types of peanut butter)
- 2 Cups Cool Whip

CHOCOLATE PUDDING LAYER:

- 2 instant chocolate pudding mixes (3.9 oz)
- 2-¾ Cups Whole Milk

TOPPING:

- 3 cups Cool Whip
- 2 – 3 tablespoons peanut butter, melted
- 9 oz. package of Reese's Pieces
- 7 oz. package of Reese's Unwrapped Mini Peanut Butter Cups, quartered

Steps:

- 1) To make the crust, stir together chocolate graham cracker crumbs and melted butter until all crumbs are evenly moistened. Press mixture into bottom of 9" X 13" glass dish. Place in the freezer while making the filling.
- 2) To make the peanut butter layer, beat together softened cream cheese, powdered sugar and vanilla. Add peanut butter and mix well. Mix in 2 cups Cool Whip. Spread over the crust. Place in freezer while making the next layer.
- 3) Whisk together the chocolate pudding mix and milk. Spread over the peanut butter layer. Place in the freezer for 10 minutes.
- 4) Spread Cool Whip over the pudding layer. Drizzle with melted peanut butter and garnish with the quartered Reese's Cups (about 1/2—2/3 of the package) and Reese's Pieces candies (about 1/2 of the package) until it looks good.

Keep any leftovers refrigerated.

Makes about 18-24 servings: ~470 calories/serving

(based on 18 servings.)



Courtesy of Shari Millard (066)



(“Friends” continued from page 44)

family camping trips, square dancing, cruises, playing the piano and organ, plants and had many hobbies. She tried almost everything, copper work, crocheting, knitting, ceramics, stained glass, jewelry making, macrame, and cake decorating to name a few.

Submitted by Trucy Rogers

Remember, if you would like someone included/remembered in the “We Remember Our Friends” section, please let us know their name, important dates, Chapter name and number, and one or two important things about them. And please provide a high-resolution photo if one is available. Thank you.

Submitted By: _____

Change Of Address/Transfer

Address: _____

Send Completed Form(s) to:



City: _____ State/Prov. _____ ZIP/PC _____

National Square Dance Campers Assoc., Inc.

Phone _____ Email _____

P0 Box 241

Chapter # _____ Chapter Name: _____

Butler, WI 53007-9998

Form III Rev 07/23

Make three copies: Send one to National Address, Keep one copy for your file & Give one to your chapter.

Report Date _____

A. CHANGE OF ADDRESS SECTION

New Address:

Name:	Email:	
Address:	Phone:	
City:	State/Prov.	Zip/PC

New Address:

Name:	Email:	
Address:	Phone:	
City:	State/Prov.	Zip/PC

New Address:

Name:	Email:	
Address:	Phone:	
City:	State/Prov.	Zip/PC

B. REQUEST TO TRANSFER

Name:	Email:	
Address:	Phone:	
City:	State/Prov.	Zip/PC
(_OLD_) Chapter Number # _____ (_OLD_) Chapter Name:		
(_NEW_) Chapter Number # _____ (_NEW_) Chapter Name:		
Is your Former Chapter aware of this transfer? Yes/No _____		

NOTE: Complete both parts A and B if a transfer involves a change of address.

"MEMBERSHIP"



Check us out at NSDCA.ORG Are You a Member Yet?

We, campers & dancers of the NSDCA invite our friends who are not members yet, to come join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship and great Square and Round Dancing. Whether a



seasoned camper or dancer or not, we want you to share a weekend with us and see what combining " 2 Loves " is about.

Camping is the way to go in these days of post pandemic times, so why not give it a try. Many of our camping locations offer a park model or other campers for rent.

Once you get a taste of camping & dancing together, we know you will be hooked!

Low annual dues, a quarterly magazine listing the locations of all the campouts in the nation plus much more... we know you will want to fill in the membership form on the previous page right away!



Mail it to: NSDCA
P.O. Box 241
Attention: Membership
Butler, WI 53007-9998



Buying our latest RV

As mentioned in the Fall issue, back at the beginning of the year we decided to pursue buying a Class C motorhome to replace our then-existing bumper-pull travel trailer. To restate the reason: due to varying health issues; it was getting too much of a pain to remove the X-Chocks, raise the stabilizers, couple the trailer to the truck, put on the anti-sway weight distribution bars, and reverse the process (in addition to leveling the unit from side-to-side as well as front-to-back) when we arrived at a campground. For a Class C you just drive in, automatically level the unit (assuming you have that option, which we do) and you're done. Of course, one still has to hook up water, sewer and electric, but we find that is less of a hassle than the previously-mentioned truck/trailer coupling issues.

There are many variables you have to consider when purchasing an RV; we had five major items on our 'must have' list: chassis vendor (Ford V8 vs V10), engine fuel type (gas preferred), floorplan layout, cargo carrying capacity (greater than one ton) and whether to purchase new or used. We went to several local RV shows and hit all the local RV dealers and many that were in different parts of the state (or different states), and quickly settled on a floorplan that was available from several manufacturers. The biggest difference between the models, other than options, color schemes and fit-and-finish, was the outside basement storage space. Of the models available for the floor plan of interest, Coachmen had two models with 60 cubic feet of outside storage, Winnebago had two models with 45 cubic feet, and Thor had two models with 30 cubic feet. I did not crawl around under all the different units to see what they were doing differently that would so drastically affect storage, given they all had the same basic floorplan, but as we would no longer have our long bed truck (since it would no longer be needed as a tow vehicle and we weren't going to be pulling a trailer or it as a toad) we wanted plenty of inside and outside storage.

The particular manufacturer we eventually chose (Coachmen) had two model lines with the same floorplan and outside storage. The differences were in-cab options (remote controlled mirrors, CarPlay, side view cameras, etc.), placement of a front-facing cab-over window (it either had one or not), and other interior options (convection microwave, Fantastic Fan vents, ceramic toilet, etc.). After deciding on one model line over the other, we scoured the web using RV Trader, dealer and other websites of that nature to find new and used units within a reasonable driving distance from the house, either at a dealer or for private sale. We obtained build sheets directly from the RV dealership or for private sale units (once we had the RV's VIN) we contacted Coachmen to get one; this allowed us to see exactly what the RV was supposed to have for options, etc.

We were very close to buying a used RV, but then found out that the owner still had an outstanding lien and was not very negotiable in price (and we can't blame him for that). We eventually found the ideal unit outside of Atlanta, GA, with more features and at a lower price (why the Atlanta area versus locally? It turns out that if one dealer has that particular model line in an area, no others in the area can have it; the dealer that did have the model line wasn't open to much negotiation). The Atlanta dealership has three locations in our area, but they could not bring that unit from Georgia to us (due to the aforementioned model restriction) so we started negotiating with the Atlanta-area store directly. We relied on the build sheet and dealer-posted photos; when we saw discrepancies we asked about the reason: it turns out a lot of those photos were stock, not unit-specific. At our request, the salesman went out and made a video of the inside and outside and sent it via email. This helped resolve most of the discrepancies between the unit and the build sheet. The one item we could not initially resolve dealt with the microwave: the RV was supposed to have a convection unit, but from the video it did not appear to be. The salesman said it was, but we were not convinced as it was a brand that did not offer convection units. We eventually convinced the salesman to look again, and when he indicated it was not a convection model, we reminded him the build sheet said it was supposed to be one. They replaced it with the appropriate model prior to our pre-delivery inspection.

One other consideration dealt with maneuverability, principally turning radius. I found it amazing that neither the chassis or RV manufacturer knew the front wheel cut angle (i.e., the maximum amount they can turn) or the turning radius. We ended up (early in the search) measuring this information using an RV with the same chassis and wheelbase we saw at a local dealership. Our concern with turning radius is getting into our backyard or driveway; roadway space is limited and one doesn't want to drive over the neighbor's grass, so ensuring the chosen RV could make the maneuver was paramount. After measuring the actual turning radius and cut angle, I made a scale-model cutout of the RV and superimposed it on an equal scale layout of our lot access obtained from a satellite image to confirm it would work.

Features are always a tradeoff. The unit we bought has Corian-type counters (which just adds weight and takes away from the cargo carrying capacity) and other features were really weren't interested in (such as three TVs), and two (load-staged and managed) air conditioners (in a 30-amp unit!) The bedroom air conditioner filled the rooftop vent, and there are no cross-breeze windows in the bedroom in our model. COVID supply chain issues are still affecting what is supposed to come with the unit versus what you get. The only one we noted was with the generator; the

(New RV' continued on page 56)

The NSDCA *TIMES*

...is published four times yearly for NSDCA members. The yearly subscription fee of \$6.00 is included in the annual membership dues. The NSDCA *TIMES* is sent to all paid NSDCA members to provide: 1) general square dance camping information, 2) communications between Chapters and 3) information about NSDCA, Inc.

The Editor reserves the right to condense, omit, or edit articles in order to best use available space; submissions may be limited to 250 words and one photograph. Please note that opinions are not necessarily those of the Editorial Staff or the Association.

All material should be submitted for publication by email. US Post Office mail submissions will be accepted but must be typed or computer printed. All caps print will not be accepted. Hard copy (e.g., chat submissions, photos) will not be returned.

The Editors will not be responsible for material received after the deadline or material that is illegible or that violates the standards of the NSDCA.



The deadline for submission of articles, pictures and advertisements is the last day of January, April, July and October.



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Dancing"*

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Please contact a Board Member (page 51) if you wish to be considered.

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The best time to buy (or upgrade) your RV

Shop in the late winter or early spring for used models. If buying from a private seller, it would behoove you to hire a mobile RV tech or have an RV dealer give the unit a once-over to ensure all is in good working order. If something does turn up, it provides some negotiation room.

Shop in the fall during the slow season. The slow season (up north, anyway) is usually around October; many RVers are either winterizing their units or have decided they're through with camping and put their units up for sale. Dealers are wanting to clear inventory for new models or the end of the tax year.

Buy on a holiday weekend. Just like other retailers, RV dealers often

piggyback on a holiday weekend to offer deep discounts.

Buy when gas prices rise. Many RVers are overly sensitive to fuel prices (whether gas or diesel) and will put their rigs up for sale with the assumption fuel prices will remain high. High fuel prices also depress sales at RV dealers, so they may be more willing to bargain.

Buy when a new model is released. RVs, whether travel trailer or motorhome, have a yearly model cycle – just like automobiles. Changes from one model year to the next are rarely significant, but dealers will want to clear the old inventory to promote the new.

Buy at an RV show. RV shows bring together several dealerships in one location, all looking to sell what they transported to the show so they don't have to take it back to their lot. Manufacturers also offer the dealer better discounts for these events which can be passed along to the purchaser.

Look for deals in other areas. The world wide web has made shopping for an RV much easier – and much harder. You can find almost anything you want, but where is the RV located? Dealers that are associated with a nationwide chain may bring in inventory from another store, but they require hard guarantees you will complete the purchase of that unit after it is delivered. There are many online RV sales sites dealing with private sellers as well as dealers. A disadvantage with going to a dealer not near your home is when problems arise (and they always will) your local RV dealer is under no obligation to work on your unit or give it priority if not purchased from that dealer; RV maintenance is totally different from car and truck maintenance.

Negotiate to get the best deal, and don't be in a rush to purchase. Stay firm on what you want to spend and what you want in your RV. Take time to find what you want at the price you're willing to pay. Even if you are able to pay cash for the RV, many dealers offer financing incentives that could shave a few thousand more dollars off the price. Trading in your old RV also benefits you in that the value credited by the dealer comes off the sales price, thus less sales tax is owed (and it saves you the hassle of trying to sell it on your own). Watch out for add-ons that are not stated up front in the sales price (e.g., transportation costs, dealer prep fees); sometimes these additional dealer profit centers are negotiable, providing further savings to you.

Portions of the above were gleaned from <https://RVLife.com/when-is-the-best-time-to-buy-a-camper>

Please remember to have a Chapter Officer go to the NSDCA website and complete the '2023 Member Age Survey.' The survey will close at the end of this year.

Thank you.



And the
Survey
Says

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[*] indicates a change in contact information from the previous issue.

(New RV' continued from page 49)

literature stated it was an NPS 5.5-kW inverter generator, yet we got a 4-kW Onan (less output capability and it's not an inverter generator). The advantage of an inverter generator is that it produces DC voltage which is then converted to AC, so the generator can run at a lower speed for a lower load (and thus save fuel and be quieter) whereas a non-inverter generator always runs at a constant speed regardless of load. We're not sure how often we'll use the generator (other than the monthly maintenance start-ups), so the impact has yet to be determined.

Negotiating a price is always an exercise in randomness. The dealership's website had lots of little notices to contact them for the best price, but when we asked about that we were informed the posted price was the best one they would offer. Additionally, the dealership wanted to impose

other fees and transportation costs (even though the build sheet already showed an included transportation cost and tolls). We eventually negotiated a total price for the RV (including taxes) that was about the same price we would pay to replace our 2012 truck with a 2023 model, which is crazy; you can get a truck and trailer for the same price as just a truck. The gross price of the RV itself was lowered considerably (we refused to pay those nuisance fees – so they lowered the price of the RV and added them back in to equal the price we said we would pay), which is to our advantage when it comes to sales tax.

I prepared a 19-page PDI checklist that is specific to motorhomes. This was a conglomeration of several checklists found online, and tailored to suit what we had in the RV. We did not have time to go through the entire checklist in detail, but we made sure to hit the highlights of all the items and dig into the details for the more important items. There were lots of small cosmetic issues that still need to be resolved, which is disappointing. A detailed list was prepared at the dealership before we signed the paperwork, which was supposed to be performed at one of their local dealers. It never fails to amaze me, however, that once you buy the RV the salesman and general manager suddenly become scarce and don't answer their email or respond to voicemail messages. Obviously, things needed to be escalated!

After numerous phone calls and emails to higher-ups, we received notice that our missing sink cover had arrived at a local dealer and we needed to go pick it up. There was a large heavy crate and a long cardboard tube in the shipment. No one at the dealership knew what they were, but they had our name on the packages. The containers were loaded into the bed of our truck and we drove home, only to discover – once we opened them – they were the wrong parts. Instead of a sink cover, cab booster cushions and a new bedroom valence – we received another Corian countertop (but one that would not fit in our RV) with a sink (but no cover!), a very long valence (again that would not fit in our RV) and a very short window shade. We were never able to get the dealer to come pick it up, so the parts were donated to Habitat for Humanity.

Based on this less-than-stellar performance, we decided to take our RV to the factory for repairs. Details of this are highlighted in the Editor's column on page 36 of this issue.

We are exceptionally pleased with our new unit. It drives and handles like a breeze, gets reasonable gas mileage (so far 10 to 11 mpg), is easy to set up and break down, has plenty of storage (both inside and out), is roomier feeling than our previous trailer (which was about the same interior length), and is small enough to be able to get into State and National Parks. As with any purchase of this magnitude, there are always compromises to make, but overall we feel like we negotiated a fair deal and ended up with a unit we hope to keep for many years.

NSDCA Chapters

AL	152
CO	[073], [085]
DE	[063]
FL	018, 082, 128, 153, 193
IA	055, 076, 095, [148]
IL	014, [044], 066, 075, 123, [196]
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[...] Brackets indicates that the Chapter covers more than one state or province.

New NSDCA Post Office Mailing Address

Please note, we now have a new mailing address. All completed forms should be mailed to the following:

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