

Kay Davis

Anyone who has been to an NNJSDA dance in the past seven years has seen the smiling face of Kay Davis at the treasurer's table, selling tickets and greeting everyone warmly.

Kay grew up in Rye, New York. "My only claim to fame," she said, "is that I went all through grammar school with Barbara Pierce, who later became the wife of George Bush." While her classmate fell in love with the future president of the United States, Kay fell in love with horses.



She worked as an administrative assistant for the New York office manager of *U.S. News and World Report* and vacationed at dude ranches in upstate New York. Her obvious enthusiasm was rewarded by an offer of free room and board every weekend at one of the ranches in exchange for riding in rodeos both at the ranch and at local county fairs. She jumped at the opportunity, which also included leading trail rides and "mucking out" the stables.

At the rodeos, Kay competed in barrel racing and other horseback games – as well as square dancing on horseback. The couples wore matching outfits, and the caller used many of the calls we do today. "It was similar to tractor square dancing," said Kay. Some of the nightly entertainment also included square dancing on one's own two feet, although it was traditional barn dancing rather than western style.

In the barn where Kay boarded her horse, she caught the attention of another horse owner, Harold Davis. Half Blackfoot Indian and raised in Montana, he lived at that time in New Jersey. They married and became parents to a son and a daughter. A happy marriage and wonderful children were the best things that ever happened to her, said Kay. Sadly, Harold passed away after only 19 years together.

Recalling her earlier pleasure in square dancing, Kay enrolled in a beginner class sponsored by Sussex Spinners. Through that club she met Donna Poyer, who invited her to dance at Kittatinny Rangers. "The rest is history," she said.

Kay has served Kittatinny as vice president/class coordinator, president, and treasurer. As class coordinator, she encouraged the students to attend dances at other clubs and NNJSDA student dances. Whenever she mentioned this to one of the students, Al Ruh, he responded: "If you're going, I'll go." Not only did he go to the student dances; he became Kay's partner for 14 years until his passing in 2007. They enjoyed many dance-related travels throughout the United States and Canada. Al and Kay also served together as treasurer and assistant treasurer of the NNJSDA.

In addition to dancing and horses, Kay likes traveling, playing card games, knitting, crocheting, and reading. "My parents taught me to play bridge and to read every day," recalled Kay.

Kay has a granddaughter through each of her two children. "I have always been ve expressing the Association's deepest appreciation to Kay for her outstanding service as treasurer for two years and assistant treasurer for five years. We are equally grateful for her friendship and kindness. **Thank you, Kay. We love you!** *Lise Greene*