

Ann (Tulp) and John Lovatt  
Franklin, NJ

Current club: Lakeland Squares  
Former clubs: Kittatinny Rangers, Hix & Chix (John), Sussex Spinners, Kuntry Kuz'ns, Lakeland Squares, IDTT, County Squares, Cloud 9 Round Dance



How did you start square dancing?

John: My cousins were square dancers. They wanted me to take lessons. I took Kittatinny Rangers classes with Dick Pasvolsky in 1979-1980.

Ann: I saw three different demos, including one at the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show. I wanted to take lessons. Finally, we found a club where my sisters and my mother and I could take lessons. I took lessons at Sussex Spinners with John Kaltenthaler in 1980-1981.

What year did you meet? 1980. And marry? Engaged on July 4, 1982, married on August 6, 1983

We did not have square dancing at our wedding. However, when John proposed he said, "Could I have this dance for the rest of my life?" This was a popular round dance song at that time. It became our song for our first dance as husband and wife.

Circumstances of your meeting and dating?

I met John at the Kittatinny Rangers student level Christmas dance in 1980. He was there with a girl from his club. He asked me for one dance that evening. A few days later, we met at the Kuntry Kuz'ns student Christmas dance. John was there with another girl from another club. He told me this was his "Number 1 girl" and the girl last week was his "Number 2 girl." I figured I was at least "Number 3" and I would have to try harder to move up in position. I did not see him again until after I finished my lessons. We met again in May 1981 and he was alone that night. Soon after, he asked me to be his square dance partner. Now I was his "Number 1 girl." In May 1981, when we danced together we were perfectly in time with each other. I had been a ballet dancer, so I knew what timing brought to dancing. This is when I knew he was the one for me.

Favorite square dance memories?

My mother, my sisters and I learned Plus the summer after we graduated in the spring of 1981. We soon became all position dancers. We went to a NJ square dance convention. Les and Lola Patterson were there. Lola found my twin sister and me and she asked us to get in a set with two other sets of twin sisters and two sisters who looked almost alike. It would be 8 girls, with each set of sisters dressed alike, right in front of the caller. Each couple were all position dancers. She told us that even if we got confused, the square would not break down if we just danced in whatever position we happened to get into. The caller, John Kaltenthaler, was busy looking at his records and did not notice the hall become quiet as all the surrounding dancers realized that we were setting up the caller. He looked up and was startled by the sight of our square. All the other dancers started to laugh. He said "I'm not going to look at that square!" He then called a "hot hash tip" to try to break down our square. We never missed a beat. After the tip, someone took our photo and it was in the next issue of *Grand Square*.

Anything else?

Square dancing is a lot more romantic than most people realize. When you are dancing face-to-face, hand-in-hand, cheek-to-cheek, or hip-to-hip, it's almost impossible to not fall in love. Square dancing is a contact sport. But it is a lot safer than other contact sports! It is the best way to find a spouse who will share your love of dance.