

Dianne and Don Madden
Forked River, NJ



Current club: Y Squares
Former clubs: Pairs and Squares, Elk Mountaineers,
Crestwood Village Promenaders

How did you start square dancing?

We both started at Y Squares; but not at the same time.

What year did you meet? 1998 And marry? 2006

We had a church wedding and a reception aboard the River Lady, a paddlewheel riverboat out of Toms River. Don's son, Arnold, provided us with karaoke and Tom Denniston and Ellen McCabe cued our favorite round dances.

Circumstances of your meeting and dating?

Don joined Y Squares the year after I joined. We became round dance partners in 2001. We didn't begin to date until 2005. Up until that time we were good friends.

Favorite square dance memories?

When Tom Denniston and Ellen McCabe began our round dance class in 2001, I asked Don if he would like to join the class. He declined; but when the class actually began, Don went on his own. He arrived to find a shortage of women dancers. He called me at home and told me that the men were dancing with the men. He asked if I would come to the class. Well, I made an attempt to find the hall, which was off the beaten track. I didn't find it that night. When I got home I called and left a message for Don that I would need directions. The following week, I attended the class. The interesting thing is that the word had spread that women dancers were needed and there were quite a number of women on that second class night; and there now was a shortage of men. We are now in our 10th year of round dancing. We now dance with Roy Gotta and Mary Pickett.

Anything else?

Like many square dancers, we like to dance when we travel. We've danced with clubs in Florida, Pennsylvania, and we've danced in Canada. We attended the National Convention in North Carolina and we've been to Cherry Ridge a number of times.