

Grand Square

KEEPING THE SQUARE DANCE COMMUNITY INFORMED

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION

Vol. 67, No. 1

Summer Issue

May-September 2026

SQUARE DANCING GIVE A HAND ... TAKE A HAND



THE TEAMWORK HAS ITS REWARDS!

Cover design by Diane Coffman (Bee Sharps)

Online in **color** at nnjsda.org/grand_square

Check online version and/or NNJSDA website for current information.

Grand Square

KEEPING THE SQUARE DANCE
COMMUNITY INFORMED

Two Issues Annually
Online at nnjsda.org

Editor in Chief: Lise Greene 973-663-4396

Ad Coordinator: Dave Tien 908-500-6111
Send ads to ads@nnjsda.org.

Ad Editor: Joanna Lieuallen 908-458-6838

Article Editor: Lise Greene 973-663-4396
Send articles to articles@nnjsda.org.

Head Proofreader: Don Schlesinger

Proofing Team (this issue):

Mark Bippes Jan Thompson
Joanna Lieuallen Susan Horowitz
Irene Stoller Harold Stoller

Distributor: Joanna Lieuallen

| <u>Deadline</u> | <u>Distribution</u> | <u>Theme</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| July 7, 2026 | August | Fall/Winter/Spring |
| March 7, 2027 | April | Summer |

ADVERTISING RATES

| <u>Size</u> | <u>Height</u> | <u>Basic Fee</u> |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| Full Page | 7.75" | \$55 |
| 1/2 Page | 3.75" | 30 |
| 1/4 Page | 1.75" | 15 |
| 1/8 Page | 1.00" | 10 |

Table width for all ads: 5"

**Use *Word table* with full border
or another editable format.**

Extra charges may apply for
required or optional ad services.

Email ads for evaluation, approval, and fee.

Payment due upon receipt of invoice.

Make check payable to "NNJSDA" and
send to NNJSDA treasurer (see below).

Complete processes for submitting articles and ads: online at nnjsda.org/grand_square

NNJSDA EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2025-26

Executive Committee

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| President | Richard Ball | president@nnjsda.org | 973-725-9738 |
| President | Chris Wadel | president@nnjsda.org | 201-835-7726 |
| Assistant President | Joanna Lieuallen | asstpres@nnjsda.org | 908-458-6838 |
| 1st Vice President | Nancy Ammons | firstvp@nnjsda.org | 908-566-7580 |
| 2nd Vice President | Susan Horowitz | secondvp@nnjsda.org | 732-236-6587 |
| Assistant 2nd VP | Kim Ferrentino | secondvp@nnjsda.org | 201-694-1491 |
| 3rd Vice President | Dave Tien | thirdvp@nnjsda.org | 908-500-6111 |
| Corresponding Secretary | Mimi Corpel | corsec@nnjsda.org | 201-745-5698 |
| Recording Secretary | Ellen Taylor | recsec@nnjsda.org | 973-580-9969 |
| Treasurer | Arlene Remington | treasurer@nnjsda.org | 201-444-9071 |

Appointees/Liaisons

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| Grand Square Editor | Lise Greene | editor@nnjsda.org | 973-663-4396 |
| Insurance Coordinator | Alicia Weschler | insurance@nnjsda.org | 201-926-5000 |
| Listmaster | Ken Robinson | listmaster@nnjsda.org | 908-963-2447 |
| Webmaster | Ken Robinson | webmaster@nnjsda.org | 908-963-2447 |
| Trustee/Advisor | Tony Milito | trustee@nnjsda.org | 848-391-2540 |
| Trustee/Advisor | Donna Poyer | trustee@nnjsda.org | 908-619-2296 |
| Trustee/Advisor | Jim Stamets | trustee@nnjsda.org | 908-328-3760 |
| CCNJ Liaison | Maryjane Clewell | cmimigirl@aol.com | 551-206-7905 |

NNJSDA EVENTS

(MS = Mainstream, PL = Plus, A = Advanced, C = Challenge, RD = Round Dancing)

New Plus calls will be taught in the first half-hour of the NNJSDA summer dances and implemented in all dances starting in October. (See pages 12-13 for details.)

May

- 16 **NNJSDA Dance** (Saturday)
Bridgewater, 7:00-10:00
MS/PL/RD (*early PL*)
Howard Williamson (PA)/Mary Pickett (NJ)
Hosts: Middletown Ramblers/Bee Sharps

June

- 13 **NNJSDA Dance** (Saturday)
Bridgewater, 2:30-5:00
MS/PL/RD
Don Bachelder (MA)/Denniston/McCabe (PA)
Hosts: Rutgers Promenaders/Times Squares

July

- 8 **NNJSDA Dance** (Wednesday)
Location TBA, 7:00-9:30
MS/PL/RD
Betsy Gotta/Roy Gotta (NJ)
Hosts: RocklandRockytops/Belles & Beaux
- 22 **NNJSDA Dance** (Wednesday)
Bridgewater, 7:00-9:30
MS/PL
Howard Richman (NJ)
Hosts: Reelers/Hunterdon Flutterwheels

August

- 12 **NNJSDA Dance** (Wednesday)
Location TBA, 7:00-9:30
MS/PL
Jenn Engimann (PA)
Hosts: Lakeland Squares/Circle Eights

August (continued)

- 26 **NNJSDA Dance** (Wednesday)
Bridgewater, 7:00-9:30
MS/PL
Dane Bragg (PA)
Hosts: Bee Sharps/Rutgers Prom.

September

- 26 **Delegates Meeting** (Saturday)
Virtual, 7:00-9:00

October

- 3 **NNJSDA Dance** (Saturday)
Bridgewater, 7:00-9:30
MS/PL (*early MS*)
Stephen Ingis (NJ)
Hosts: Belles & Beaux/Kittatinny
- 17 **NNJSDA Dance** (Saturday)
Location TBA, 7:00-9:30
MS/PL/RD (*early PL*)
Mark Franks (NJ)/Steve Bradt (PA)
Hosts: Times Squares/Motiv8ors

November

- 8 50th Mini-Festival (Sunday)
Location TBA, 1:00-6:30
MS/PL/A/C1/RD
Don Moger (Canada), Dave Eno (NY),
Betsy Gotta (NJ)/Roy Gotta (NJ)

Notes:

- June 1 Club questionnaires due
July 7 *Grand Square* deadline

Bridgewater: PeopleCare Center, 120 Finderne Ave. 08807
Other locations will be announced when finalized.

Dance Inquiries: Nancy Ammons (firstvp@nnjsda.org, 908-566-7580)

One Square Is Fair: All NNJSDA dances, including the Mini-Festival and Midterm Dance, count toward OSIF – support your club!



MINI-FESTIVAL 2026

We're celebrating half a century of
fine and fun festival dancing!
Use the QR code (right)
for information and registration.



NNJSDA Presidents' Message

We welcome all graduates into our dances and our clubs! To keep your new members involved, encourage them to attend the NNJSDA summer dances starting in June – and, if possible, take the graduates with you. They will have



the opportunity to experience callers other than their teachers, and you can show them how good you are! We all look up to role models – become one.

We must assure new dancers that it's okay to make mistakes while they become comfortable with the calls. As Fran Wadel tells her students: Square dancing is the only recreation where you can cheat! (If you miss a call, just go on to the next one.)

In classes, wives and husbands often dance with angels. Now it's time to help them dance successfully with each other. Remind them to get into squares with experienced people who can guide them as needed. And tell them to be brave by dancing up front, where the caller can also more easily help them.

For ALL dancers: Don't forget to use the Freeloader and Patron forms included in graduation packets and available on the NNJSDA website. Attend Association dances, visit other clubs, have the forms signed, and collect dangles plus free dance coupons!

Raids: Join your club for visits to others. When at least eight members "raid" another club by going as a group, your club builds up points toward a special discount from the NNJSDA. (You can even have your Patron form signed on a raid.) Some clubs will be doing "banner raids" by "stealing" the host club's special banner; then the host has to raid their club in return to retrieve it.

Do you have something special or funny that happened to you in square dancing? Well, share that experience by submitting the story to *Grand Square*.

We look forward to seeing all dancers, new and experienced, at upcoming events. Remember: Dance, dance, dance! Have fun, fun, fun!

~ Richard Ball and Chris Wadel, NNJSDA Presidents

The following anecdote was included in a previous issue of Grand Square. As our Association presidents have recommended, please share your own square dance experiences that provided a good laugh! Send them to editor@nnjsda.org.

Just for Fun!

Where's Home? Alan was a few minutes late to the intro square dance, and they had just started a tip when he arrived. Being short on men, someone pulled him right into a square, mid-step. A bit disoriented, he turned to his partner and asked, "Where's home?" She stared at him suspiciously, then answered, "Morristown."

~ Janet Gerber (Reelers)

CONGRATULATIONS, PATRONS!

*Visited at least 8 NNJSDA member clubs; earned free dance coupon and dangle
Number indicates how many times award has been earned.*

Tina Ammerman – 3
Mimi Corpel – 14

Pat Duemig – 13
Tom Duemig – 10
Mary Jansyn – 1

Paula Lawrence – 1
Arlene Remington – 9

NNJSDA: FOUR INCENTIVE PROGRAMS!

The NNJSDA offers four great programs as incentives to visit other clubs as well as NNJSDA dances, plus earn financial awards and dangles.

For Individual Dancers

Patron: visit eight member clubs

Freeloader: attend three NNJSDA summer dances and Mini-Festival

For Clubs

(at least one square of members – complete program once or twice a year)

Raid: visit other member clubs totaling 200 miles

One Square Is Fair: attend five NNJSDA dances

For program rules and awards, visit nnjsda.org and click on “Documents.”

FREELoader 2025 AWARDS

*Congratulations to the 36 dancers who received the NNJSDA’s
Freeloader award at the Mini-Festival on November 9, 2025!*

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Tina Ammerman | Amy Golden | Arlene Remington |
| Lois Autenrieth | Sheryl Gurney | Ann Rothfuss |
| Steve Autenrieth | Dean Hartman | Rana Slosberg |
| Anna Bahniuk | Mary Jansyn | Ron Slosberg |
| Larry Bugal | Donald Lane | Florence Speck |
| Carol Casale | Helen Leba | Jim Stamets |
| George Cerny | Joanna Lieuallen | Mary Stamets |
| Susan Cerny | Bonnie Jean Mac Yash | Dave Tien |
| Diane Coffman | Ginny Platania | Bob Turner |
| Karen Condon | Jeff Platania | Ellen Ward |
| Mimi Corpel | JP Plioplys | Terry Woltman |
| Olga D’Arcangelis | Doina Ralea | Phyllis Wooster |

FREELoader 2026 ALERT

Pick up a new Freeloader form from your club, at an Association dance, or on the website after June 1 (nnjsda.org – click on “Documents”). Attend three or more NNJSDA summer dances AND the Mini-Festival in 2026, and have the form signed at each event by the Association treasurer. You will receive a dangle plus a free NNJSDA dance coupon (not transferable). Write your name on the form!



AI Can't Square Dance!

Perhaps some of you have discovered AI and have asked ChatGPT or other sites to answer questions, draft articles, or perform other five-second “miracles.” In light of the upcoming changes to the Plus program, which will now incorporate eight calls from the Advanced program, I decided to have some fun. I asked AI to create a square dance module using those eight calls: Clover and (Anything), Pair Off, Partner Hinge, Partner Tag, Pass the Sea, Quarter Thru, Scoot and Dodge, and Triple Trade. Well! The results were, shall we say, far from encouraging.

The first pass did not get beyond this: Heads, Pair Off; Clover and Square Thru 4. No can do! Once the heads Pair Off (same result as doing a Square Thru 4), they are facing the sides, a position from which no one can Cloverleaf. So, I “scolded” ChatGPT, explaining that it had to respect the definitions and the acceptable starting positions for each call. Duly chastised, it wrote back: “Yes, you’re right! Here is a revised version where all of the protocols are respected.” Wrong!

The second effort began: Heads, Square Thru 4; Pass the Sea (just like Pass the Ocean, but you step to a left-handed wave). This results in a Tidal Wave. So far, so good. Next call: Scoot and Dodge (think Scoot Back, but with the out-facing dancer dodging instead of flipping over into his or her partner’s spot), which, unfortunately, is not possible from a Tidal Wave.

Further attempts on my part to get an acceptable module were just as futile and led me to conclude: While AI may do many wonderful things, it can’t square dance!

(Aside to our trusty callers out there: Isn’t it great to know that you are still irreplaceable?)
~ Don Schlesinger (RocklandRockytots and Motiv8ors)

Y Squares Time Capsule Found!

While Y Squares unfortunately had to fold after more than six decades, a hidden gem was discovered while cleaning out the club's supply closet in Hehnlly School.

Among the many table covers, napkins, cups, plastic utensils, and treasurer supplies was a box that appeared not to have been opened in many years. Inside was a unique find: a miniature covered square dance wagon that had traveled the world far and wide.

Inside the wagon was a letter explaining that it had been created by members Karen and Duane Hartline. A parchment roll listed the places it had visited and the many folks with whom it had traveled. Among its stops were Canada, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, and Great Britain.

The little wagon began its trek at the Y Squares 20th anniversary dinner-dance in November 1983. The idea was for it to visit dancers in faraway places and return in time for the club's 25th anniversary in 1988. Its first caretakers were Merri-Eights members Betty and Bernie Koft (yes, Dan's parents). Subsequent stops on our continent included Brooklyn, North Carolina, Ohio, Ontario (Canada), Wisconsin, and California. Then it headed off on an international journey.

Upon finally returning from its five-year global trip, the covered wagon contained the previously mentioned roster and was adorned with club badges and ribbons from all over the world. The dance wagon had completed its mission and had come back home in time to celebrate the club's 25th.

The photos below are from the club's final dance on September 11, 2025.

~ Tony Milito (Y Squares and Rutgers Promenaders)



Plus & Advanced Labor Day Weekend

September 4–7, 2026

Cherry Ridge Square Dance Campground

Beautiful woodland/lake setting in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains

2 Internationally Known Callers



Bill Harrison



Betsy Gotta



Lodging with private baths and common kitchen

Full RV hookups (tent sites also available)



2 Wooden Dance Floors

2 halls during the day (combined at night)

Evening dance format:

2 Plus tips followed by 1 Advanced tip with Rounds in between all

Dance Fee
\$65/Person

5 hours of just Round Dancing



with Roy Gotta

For info on lodging, camping, meals, and more, contact Cindy at:
Cherry Ridge Campground, 147 Camp Road, Honesdale, PA 18431
Phone 570-488-6654 www.cherryridgecampsites.com

For additional info about the weekend, contact Roy Gotta at:
732-249-2086 or roygotta@optonline.net

Farewell to Our Friends

We have shared wonderful friendships with many square dancers,
and acknowledge here our current and former NNJSDA
club members/callers who have passed away.

Thanks for the memories.

Joan Anfinen, 1/14/26 (Reelers, Garden State Campers)

Gil Collins, 9/11/25 (Lakeland Squares)

Donald Lane, 12/12/25 (Belles & Beaux, Kittatinny Rangers, Lakeland, Reelers)

Fred Meyer, (Belles & Beaux, Motiv8ors)

Bob Moore, 12/20/25 (Bee Sharps)

Michael O'Farrell, 10/14/25 (Middletown Ramblers)

Paul Olsen, 10/6/25 (Kittatinny Rangers, Reelers)

Al Peskoe, 1/10/26 (Middletown Ramblers)

Judy Smith, 12/6/25 (Reelers)



Gratitude for Donald Lane

Donald was a familiar face and friendly presence at club and Association dances. He served as Assistant 2nd Vice President of the NNJSDA, was an officer of various clubs, and especially enjoyed mentoring new dancers. His sudden passing in December following a fall has left an empty spot in our squares and a hole in our hearts.



Square Dancer? Camper? The Garden State Square Dance Campers Association is looking for YOU!



We have a MS/PL campout in Pennsylvania every month, May to September. **Join us in 2026!**

For registration forms, see website: gssdca.wixsite.com/gssdca

Questions? Pauline/Ron Vande Vrede: 973-343-3152

*Appalachian Campground, 60 Motel Drive, Shartlesville, PA 19554

Don't camp? At Appalachian, rent a cabin (deluxe or rustic) or stay at a nearby motel!

Campout Schedule 2026

| | |
|---|--|
| May 1-3: Bob Engel | White Oak Campground |
| We are joining Square Up Campers | 3156 White Oak Road, Quarryville, PA 17566 |
| <i>To register, call campground directly at 717-687-6207.</i> | |
| June 12-14: Dave Black | Appalachian Campground* |
| July 17-19: Bob Engel | Appalachian Campground* |
| August 7-9: Mark Franks | Appalachian Campground* |
| Sept. 11-13: Bob Engel | Shady Oaks Campground |
| We are joining Square Up Campers | 40 Round Barn Road, Newmantown, PA 17073 |
| <i>To register, call campground directly at 717-949-3177.</i> | |
| Sept. 18-20: Dane Bragg/Jenn Engimmann | Cherry Ridge Campsites |
| | 147 Camp Road, Honesdale, PA 18431 |
| <i>To register, call campground directly at 570-488-6654.</i> | |

Northeast Callers School 2026

Programs for Beginning and Experienced Callers



Ken Ritucci
Massachusetts

(CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach)



Martin Kromer
Germany

(CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach)



Tony Oxendine
South Carolina

(CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach)



Ted Lizotte
New Hampshire

(CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach)

**October
8-12
2026**

**HOST HOTEL & HAYLOFT BARN
STURBRIDGE, MA**



Ben Rubright
Arizona

TWO LEVELS OF PROGRAMS

Beginner

Designed for new callers who need all the basics, including: Basic Choreography, Microphone Technique, Voice Control, and Introduction to Sight Calling Methods.

Experienced

For Callers with experience between two or more years. Emphasis will be on Advanced Sight Calling Techniques, better timing and body flow, as well as Creative Choreography, plus much more.

For More Information, contact Ken Ritucci at 413-262-1875 / kenritucci@gmail.com

Key Benefits of this School Include:

- Develop confidence in your calling ability
- Improve your choreographic skills
- Learn how to program your dances
- Acquire the skills necessary to make yourself a more professional caller

Topics of Discussion:

- Mechanics of Choreography
- Choreographic Management
- Smooth Dancing / Body Flow
- Voice / Delivery
- Ethics / Leadership
- Social Aspects of Professional Square Dance Calling
- Timing
- Programming
- Teaching
- Music / Rhythm



Welcome, Graduates!

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the following dancers who have completed (or are soon expected to complete) their classes and are ready to enjoy the wonderful benefits of square dancing – kudos to our member clubs and angels!

MAINSTREAM GRADUATES

Belles & Beaux – Gene Brennan, Denise Holzsgager, Jack Pigut, Dorothy Tobe

Circle Eights – Cyril Burke, Laura Camey, Barbara Donizetti, Lois Graney, Denise Green, Denise Kehoe, Avi Lewinson, Tye Nelson, Sara Pafford, Gerry Riconda, Dora Windecker

Hunterdon Flutterwheels – Kristy Ball, Karen Bent, Craig Cutler, Susan Nicolich, Louise Plesniak, Dave Snope, Diane Talan Whitman, Donna Torczon, Doreen Trontell, John Trontell

Kittatinny Rangers – Heidi Conklin, Cathy Garrison, Milton Jager, Connie O’Grady, David Penicaro, Karen Penicaro, Ed Scott, Sue Van Sickle

Lakeland Squares – Bill Faber, Lisa Forrest, Martin Gurney, Cathy Harris, Charlie Harris, Terry Kearney, Amanda Ouzer

Middletown Ramblers – Jay Ahl, Lisa Ahl, Paula Corris, Diana Falls, Ken Falls, Mary Beth Jones, Art Reiff, Fran Reiff, Michelle Rivera

Times Squares – Konrad Brzoska, Nancy Buivid, Daphne Calvo, Michelle Charlemagne, Emily Freeman, Jeff Hewitt, Amelia Jackson, Karen Jackson, Adrienne Jennings, Sandra Monforte, Natasha Petereit, Emily Purce, Ryan Rosenfeld, Bridget Stevens, Bay Urban, Chris Willock

PLUS GRADUATES

Reelers – Marie Abbey, Tina Ammerman, Chris Carter, Martin Gurney, Sheryl Gurney, Lauren Haas, Helen Leba, Celia Longendyck, David Longendyck, Pat Mascenik, JP Plioplys, Doina Ralea

Times Squares – Konrad Brzoska, Emily Freeman, Jake Karaban, Cathy Overfelt, Natasha Petereit

CHALLENGE 1 GRADUATES

Motiv8ors – Bernadine Icklan, Cathy Schlesinger, Don Schlesinger, May Tamanaha

12th Annual Plus Weekend



**with Jenn Engimann
and Dane Bragg**

Sept. 18-20, 2026

*Dancing starts at 8 PM Friday
5 dance sessions*



*Located on a picturesque wooded lakeside site
in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania*

- \$55 Per-person dance fee
- Lodging w/private baths ~ common kitchens
- Plus dancing and workshops
- Tent camping and RV sites available
- Square Dance attire optional
- Onsite Country Kitchen open for meals

For lodging information and to register, contact:
Cherry Ridge Campsites & Lodgings



147 Camp Road, Honesdale, PA 18431 ~ 570-488-6654



cherryridgecampsites.com

New Mainstream and Plus Programs!

Our Mainstream and Plus programs are changing! Callerlab, an international organization of square dance callers, has introduced a simplified program structure that goes into effect on September 1, 2026. It offers a newly defined entry-level program and a streamlined path forward for modern square dancing.

The new programs and changes include equalizing Mainstream and Plus to 50 calls each. Fourteen calls have moved from Mainstream to Plus, one has moved from Plus to Mainstream, and eight have moved from Advanced to Plus. *There will be a transition period, so do not expect these changes to be effective immediately.* Further information will be available in the fall issue of *Grand Square*.

Callerlab's mission is "to foster the art of square dance calling and improve caller skills." The organization has published the new lists (see next page for the program changes); additional documents have been published for Mainstream, including a "Teaching Order and Dancer and Caller Transition Guide" and the "(New) Plus Teaching Order."

What does this mean for dancers?

- Mainstream graduates will be on the dance floor faster than in previous years.
- Many of the lesser used Mainstream calls will be heard more often.
- Current Mainstream dancers will need to learn one new call; current Plus dancers will need to learn eight new calls. Good news: There are plenty of places to learn these calls!

How do I learn the new calls?

- NNJSDA will include teaches of the new Plus calls at its summer dances. More information will be provided through the email list.
- Club and NNJSDA callers are encouraged to workshop new calls at dances.
- Several clubs are already including the new calls in their Plus programs. Check with your local club to get in on those teaches!
- Attend a teach session for the eight new Plus calls at the Mini-Festival.

How do I know what program will be called at a dance?

- For advertising their dances in the 2026-2027 season, clubs have been asked to label each one clearly in the fall issue of *Grand Square* and in email notices: Mainstream, New Mainstream, Plus, New Plus.
- The expectation is that New Mainstream will be called at club dances following the graduation of fall 2026 Mainstream classes.
- NNJSDA will begin using the new Mainstream and Plus programs at the first dance of the 2026-2027 season.

Remember that Callerlab continues to produce information. Updates will be published in the fall/winter/spring issue of *Grand Square* after details have been finalized. Do you have questions? Please email me at secondvp@nnjsda.org.

~ Susan Horowitz (NNJSDA 2nd VP)

See chart on page 13 for calls added and dropped from each program.

Mainstream

Plus

Advanced

Allemande Thar
Circle to a Line
Cloverleaf
Dixie Style to a Wave
Do Paso
Eight Chain Thru
Pass to the Center
See Saw
Shoot the Star
Slip the Clutch
Spin Chain Thru
Turn Thru
Walk and Dodge
Walk Around

Single Circle
to a Wave

Clover and (Anything)
Pair Off
Partner Hinge
Partner Tag
Pass the Sea
Quarter Thru/ $\frac{3}{4}$ Thru/Grand
Quarter Thru/Grand $\frac{3}{4}$ Thru
Scoot and Dodge
Triple Trade

Using the NNJSDA Website to Find Dances

The NNJSDA offers options for finding dances at our member clubs and the NNJSDA: announcements via the email list, ads and the calendar in *Grand Square*, flyers, and postings on our website. This article focuses on the website.

The first stop is “The Next Seven Days” section on the homepage, which is especially helpful in planning your dance week. Clicking on any date for an event in the upcoming week will show you the details. This is also a good spot to check before leaving your house to see if a dance has been canceled.

The next stop is the visual events calendar. (Select “Events Calendar” on the site menu.) You can view a month’s color-coded dance events and click on any entry for details: club = **blue**, student level = **purple**, NNJSDA other than student level = **green**, introductory dance = **orange**, canceled = **red**.

The final stop is on each club’s information page. Select “Our Clubs” on the site menu and then “Details” for a club’s page, where you can check when a club is holding its next dance and find a flyer listing all scheduled dances for a particular time period.

If you haven’t joined our email list and/or viewed our website, I suggest you do so to get the full complement of tools for finding events. While *Grand Square* is an excellent source, the website and email list provide more up-to-date information such as cancellations and changes (location, caller, program, etc.).

Comments, suggestions, questions? Please contact me at kenrbnsn@gmail.com and include a relevant subject line.

~ Ken Robinson (NNJSDA Webmaster)

FINDING DANCES ONLINE

Where’s the Dance: wheresthedance.com – click on “Events” or other links

Square Dance Resource Net: ceder.net – click on “Event” or “Club”

Any website is only as good as the information provided – confirm events in advance!

Clubs: Designate a member to keep *your* events updated on all sites, including nnjsda.org.

Where in the World Have Our Dancers Been? Memorable Dance Moments Submitted by *Grand Square* Readers

What Happens in Vegas

In February, I had the pleasure of visiting my son, his wife, and their two grown children in Las Vegas. We enjoyed a magnificent buffet at the five-star Wynn casino resort, where both my son and granddaughter work. We also visited the immersive Arte Museum, where visitors can feel waterfalls crashing, hear the ocean rolling, stroll through blooming flowers, and view art projected onto the walls.

Another highlight was Sphere, where we were “immersed” in *The Wizard of Oz*. The show incorporates parts of the original Judy Garland film, and we were IN the movie. Our seats rocked inside the tornado, we felt the wind, leaves blew around, snow (suds) covered us, and foam apples dropped down for the audience to catch.

There aren’t many square dance clubs in the Las Vegas area, but a special highlight for me was revisiting the Good Times Square and Round Dance Club, which was about an hour away. Another club was visiting the same night – and stole their banner as a way of encouraging visitation among the clubs.

There are two bears on the Good Times banner. About a decade ago, I was at the club and received a “traveling” stuffed animal named Edwina T. Bear to accompany me and collect dangles wherever I might go around the world – conventions, vacations, places of interest, and so on. Each of the club’s traveling bears is named after a member, and the human Edwina was delighted to see “her” bear again, bedecked with lots of dangles!

~ Arlene Remington (*Belles & Beaux*)

Where in the World will YOU be dancing this summer?



Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention

In January, several NNJSDA members headed south – hoping for some warm weather. Well, it was a bit cold even in Florida! We attended the 71st Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention in Deltona from Thursday night through Saturday, January 15-17.

The theme was “Survive the Curse at the 71st.” Programs ran day and evening with breaks for meals. Next year the event will be held in February in Deltona. Pictured below are Donna Brady, Carole Casale, Gary Bergman, Dennis Hunsberger, Jane Mastrolia, Debbie and Jose Obarrio.

After the convention, Jane, Dennis, and Carol met at Orange Blossom, a club that dances every Sunday night in The Villages. The caller was our own Betsy Gotta! We were also invited to dance on Monday with Stars and Stripes in the southern end of The Villages. We certainly got out dancing this January!

~ Jane Mastrolia (*Middletown Ramblers*)

Where in the World Have Our Dancers Been? (continued)



Arlene and the two Edwinas



Arlene in Oz at Sphere



At the Florida State Convention: Donna Brady, Carole Casale, Gary Bergman, Dennis Hunsberger, Jane Mastrolia, Debbie and Jose Obarrio

Times Squares Square Dance Club
Presents

Peel the Pumpkin 2026

Haunted Hollywood

Featuring Don Moger and Jenn Engimann

Calling Mainstream through Challenge 2

Saturday, October 24, 2026, 10 AM–6 PM

\$50 registration thru September 30, \$60 thereafter, Pizza Party included!

Daily rate \$30 per session (morning or afternoon)

PS 3, 490 Hudson Street, NYC – More info/registration at www.timessquares.nyc

BEE SHARPS OF SOMERVILLE



- 2nd and 4th Friday Night Dances
Early Rounds, 7:30
- Square Dancing and Rounds, 8:00-10:15
A Tip at 10:15 if sufficient dancers present
- Contact: Dave @ 908-500-6111

DANCE SCHEDULE May to September 2026

Venue: PeopleCare Center, 120 Finderne Ave., Bridgewater, NJ

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Caller</i> | <i>Cuer</i> | <i>Format</i> | <i>Dance Theme</i> |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| May 8 | Dan Koft | Steve Bradt | MS/PL/RD | Ocho de Mayo |
| May 22 | Paul Ingis & Stephen Ingis | NO Rounds | ALL MS, 1 Plus Tip | Ice Cream Social |
| June 12 | Karin Rabe & Greg Moore | Russ Booz | MS/PL/RD | Hawaiian Luau & Graduation Dance |
| SUMMER WORKSHOPS: JUNE to AUGUST (Details Below*) | | | | |
| June 25 | | July 9, 23 | | August 6, 20 |
| September | | | | |
| THURS. Sept. 10 | Mike Sikorsky | Mary Pickett | MS/PL/RD Early MS | Back 2 School |
| Sept. 25 | Mark Franks | Ron Rumble | MS/PL/RD | Deux x Dos |

*Mainstream & "New Plus" Calls SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 PM | Callers: TBA | All Square Dancers Welcome
First United Methodist Church, 48 W. High St., Somerville, NJ

**** SAVE THE DATES ****

Bee Sharps kicks off September with an amazing lineup!

Be there Thursday, Sept. 10 and Friday, Sept. 25!

Contact: BSadm19@gmail.com

Visit us online / Facebook: BeeSharps.org / [@BeeSharps](https://www.facebook.com/BeeSharps)

Another great season of dancing is drawing to a close at Bee Sharps. We have offered a full range of dance opportunities this year including Mainstream, Plus, and rounds at most of our regular dances; 16 Plus DBD workshops taught by Dane Bragg; and Mainstream lessons taught by Karin Rabe and Greg Moore. We even had the occasional Advanced tip to end our Friday night dances. Thanks to all our friends and raiders from other clubs who make our events even more enjoyable.

We were thrilled when Karin and Greg agreed to teach Mainstream for us this year, and they have made every class a wonderful dance experience. The music is always upbeat and their lyrics are creative and fun – as you can see in this photo when we danced to the Beatles’ “Octopus’s Garden”!

We will soon be graduating our class of new square dancers: Laura Berman, Kendall Cole, Trey Cole, Mary Dennis, and Bonnie Jensen. After the class finishes in mid-June, we will host several summer workshops to focus on Mainstream with an opportunity to dance and review problem areas. We welcome new dancers and angels from neighboring clubs to join us in June, July, and August. Details of the workshops are listed in our ad on page 16.



We were saddened by the passing last year of two longtime Bee Sharps members: Jane Ross in August and Bob Moore in December.

Jane lived a long and full life – as a nationally ranked tennis player, being rescued by helicopter from the summit of Machu Picchu, dancing with her son (Larry), and spending summers in Cape Cod surrounded by her loving family.

Bob passed away after spending the day as he often did – running errands with his dance companion, Sharon Duncan, and their Saturday tradition of sharing a pizza dinner. We miss Jane’s smile and Bob’s kindness at every dance.

On a happier note, Bee Sharps member Terry Woltman became a grandma again. She now has five granddaughters and one grandson.

We will be starting our next square dance season with a very special caller. See our ad on page 16 to learn who that caller will be!

~ Nancy Ammons (cearnach.dannsa@gmail.com)

SECRET FOR NEW DANCERS

As you venture from your home club to other club and Association dances, here’s a secret for good dancing: *Try to square up with experienced dancers* rather than with your classmates and other recent graduates. They will help you!

The Belles & Beaux Mainstream students graduated on March 19, 2026. Dorothy Tobe was a new student; Jene Brennan, Denise Holzsager, and Jack Pigut took the class for the second time. They should all be proud of the time they put in to learn the calls. B&B president Chris Wadel, class teacher Fran Wadel, and class coordinators Diane Gaydos and Richard Ball welcomed the new members into our club. There were lots of laughs when they had the graduates dancing with paper bags on their heads. The festivities included a celebratory cake, delicious sandwiches, and decorations. We look forward to seeing the new members at upcoming dances.

We thank Don Schlesinger for teaching us the eight calls that moved from Advanced to Plus. He told us they were easy, and he was correct. Thanks, Don!

Our fantastic annual murder mystery will take place on Wednesday, May 6. Some of our club members will perform in a play where the audience must guess who the murderer is. We invite all square dancers and their non-dancing friends to attend. There will be a special tip for anyone who has never danced before.

Save the date of Saturday, October 17, for our annual mystery bus ride. We will go from morning to evening touring different places, having dinner, and dancing in the evening. Clues will be provided on the bus to see if you can guess where we are heading!
 ~ Amy Golden (argolden@optonline.net)

Belles & Beaux

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:15-9:30 PM

Mainstream with a Plus Tip

Maywood Recreation Center

340 Duvier Place, Maywood, NJ 07607

Chris Wadel, President

201-835-7726

cwadel@optimum.net



Claire Zimmerman, Caller Contact

201-291-8417

swissoctober@hotmail.com

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| June 3 | Fran Wadel | Surprise Theme: Dangle Dance |
| June 17 | Maryjane Clewell | Tribute to the Beach Boys |
| July 1 | Sandy Corey | Red, White, and Blue Night |
| July 15 | Stephen Ingis | Christmas in July |
| August 5 | Howard Richman | Ice Cream Social |
| August 19 | Paul Ingis | Return of the Flashlight Dance |
| September 2 | Mark Franks | Farewell to Summer: Dangle Dance |
| September 16 | Karin Rabe and Greg Moore | Favorite Team Jersey |
| October 7 | Sandy Corey | Oktoberfest |
| October 17 | Mystery! | Mystery Bus Ride – details coming! |
| October 21 | Larry Shipman | Wear Your Favorite Color |
| November 4 | Dane Bragg | Let's Eat Pie: Dangle Dance |
| November 18 | Jonathon Weiner | Mickey Mouse Day: Wear Anything |
| December 2 | Fran Wadel | Midterm Dance |
| December 16 | Howard Richman | Holiday Cookie Swap: Bring Cookies |

Autumn Leaves Festival

October 16-17, 2026

Dancing begins Friday afternoon at 2 PM
and ends Saturday night at 10 PM

Winston Prouty School
209 Austine Drive
Brattleboro, VT

Squares:

Bill
Harrison

Ted
Lizotte

Ken
Ritucci

Don
Moger



Rounds:



Roy & Janet Williams

3 Halls!

Plus • A2 • C1 (limited C2)
Round Dance Teach

www.autumnleavesfestival.net

\$75/person/US

\$85/pp after September 1, 2026

Anyone who attended the Circle Eights 65th anniversary dinner-dance at the Brownstone on September 28, 2025, knows what an amazing afternoon it was! Attendees were treated to delicious food, dancing to international caller Bill Harrison, and conversing with dancers and members from numerous clubs. Circle Eights is grateful to all who took the time to celebrate with us. We particularly thank Arlene Remington, the event chair, and Ann Cavanaugh, who earns kudos for composing an entertaining and thorough club history.



During this dance season, Raid chairs Kim and Rich Ferrentino fearlessly led the club to completion of the 200-mile Raid program. We visited and danced with Bee Sharps, Belles & Beaux, Kittatinny Rangers, Lakeland Squares, RocklandRockytops, and Y Squares. One of the best parts of all the raids is sharing dinner with our club members beforehand at a restaurant near the venue. The final raid at Y Squares was especially fun. Their gracious and lively members provided delicious snacks and a wonderfully refreshing homemade punch. We are all sad that the club has disbanded.

Circle Eights had a great class this year. We appreciate dancers from our own and other clubs who angel every Tuesday night. In December, we enjoyed a pre-class holiday celebration at The Cornerstone in Hillsdale, where the students presented crocheted and paper angel ornaments to their “angels.”



Although Mother Nature caused cancellation of two dances this winter, we were happy that she didn’t interfere with our student dance in February. It was very successful with more than six squares. We thank Bee Sharps and Hunterdon Flutterwheels for their wonderful raids; our March dance had just short of 10 squares, something not seen in more than 10 years!

Circle Eights continues to invite you to attend our convenient Sunday afternoon square dances in Maywood. Raiders are always welcome!

~ Jeanne Weisman (kreider99@aol.com)



CIRCLE EIGHTS

2026

MS with Plus Tips



May 3 – Jonathon Weiner
 June 14 – Betsy Gotta
No Dances July/August
 Sept. 13 – Howard Richman

Oct. 11 – Betsy Gotta
 Nov. 22 – Maryjane Clewell
 Dec. 13 – Karin Rabel/
 Greg Moore

Fall 2026 Beginners Class – Watch Your Email!

Sunday afternoons once a month
 2:00–4:00
 Maywood Recreation Center
 340 Duvier Place, Maywood, NJ 07607

More information: Pat and Tom 201-955-1495 or circle8s.nnjdsda.org

HUNTERDON FLUTTERWHEELS



Hunterdon County Complex Building 1
 314 Route 12, Flemington, NJ 08822

Web: hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjdsda.org

Contact # night of dance: [908-458-6387](tel:908-458-6387)



| <u>2026</u> | <u>Theme</u> | <u>Caller</u> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| May 1 | Aloha! National Lei Day (<i>Hawaiian dress and snacks</i>) | Howard Richman |
| May 15 | Itza Pizza Party (<i>Wear green, white, and red; Plus Graduation</i>) | Dane Bragg |
| May 29 | Under the Sea Soirée (<i>World Sea Turtle Day; MS Graduation</i>) | K. Rabe & G. Moore |
| June 5 | Drive-In Movie Night (<i>Ice Cream Social</i>) | Paul Ingis |
| Oct. 16 | Hold the date – Live Music Dance | Howard Richman |

Summer Workshops (MS/Plus): 4:00-6:00 PM (see website for locations)
Sat. June 27 · Sat. July 11 · Sat. July 18 · Sat. August 22 · Sun. August 30

Alternating Mainstream and Plus Tips
 1st and 3rd Fridays 8:00-10:15 PM
 Soft-Soled Shoes, Please!
Check Website and Notices for Venues

For Information: **908-458-6387**
hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjdsda.org
 facebook.com/hunterdonflutterwheels

We opened the season in September with a community Fall Equinox Dance Party led by Mary Moody. Four squares learned some new configurations and folk-dance moves, and we had fun meeting potential new members. At the Hispanic American Heritage Dance called by Dane Bragg, beautiful Hispanic art and decorations brightened the hall for more than four squares. At the PeopleCare Center, Dancing Down on the Farm featured live music by the Longhill String Band and spirited calling by Howard Richman.

The patriotic Saluting Our Armed Forces dance included a salute to veterans in a hall decorated with red, white, and blue. Several former service members wore parts of their uniforms, and we wrote notes to veterans in appreciation for their sacrifices. Mary Moody called the Maize Craze Dance featuring corn-based (maize) snacks and decorations, and dancers dressed in yellow.

In December, we celebrated National CBD (Cookie and Brownie Day) with Karin Rabe and Greg Moore calling to four squares; antique baking tools adorned the snack table. Our last dance of the year was called by Dane Bragg and featured “ugly” holiday sweaters. To channel the spirit of the holidays, we collected items for the Open Cupboard food pantry.

A spirited group of members in sparkly outfits rang in 2026 at the New Year’s Eve celebration hosted by the Gottas and Kofts. We began the new year with an Absolutely NOT Our Opposite Day Dance. Many dressed or coiffed in opposites of the color spectrum – for example, one wearing a white top with black bottom while the partner wore the opposite. Jenn Engimann’s calls provided fun musical interpretations. The Winter Respite theme at the end of January featured hot cocoa and games to break up the winter blues.

The February Souper Bowl XI dance was moved to the Senior Center while our regular hall was used as a warming center. Instead of the usual homemade soups and halftime snacks, our resourceful officers changed the focus to collecting canned and packaged soup for the food bank. We had an entertaining evening with Howard Richman’s always humorous and challenging calling. Dane Bragg called the Loving Our Pets dance featuring photos and anecdotes of dogs, cats, birds, llamas, and rabbits.

In March, we celebrated National Napping Day by wearing pajamas and eating nighttime snacks with calling by Mark Franks. Joanna Lieuallen, our newest caller, taught a “carousel” move and sang a duet with Mark. We celebrated three members who share a birthday: Nan Brown, Paula Lawrence, and Cathy Pecka.

We graduated 10 Mainstream students in January and have a second class of 11 (taught by Mary Moody and Joanna Lieuallen) in progress. Our Plus class has 24 students (taught by Dane Bragg). Our raiders are having fun visiting other NNJSDA clubs.

~ Marja van Ouwkerk (pamarjavo@gmail.com)

Greetings from the Kittatinny Rangers! Thanks to all the clubs that were kind enough to raid and to the people from various clubs who have joined us to dance individually.

We enjoyed a successful fall and winter season. Due to the efforts of our president, Donna Poyer, we enjoyed 11 different callers – what a privilege for new and seasoned dancers to have this opportunity. In March, Sharon Trimble and Maryjane Clewell called two student dances in honor of our eight Mainstream graduates. A graduation ceremony was held on March 19. Pictured left to right: Edward Scott, Connie O’Grady, Cathy Garrison, Milton Jager, Heidi Conkling, and Sue Van Sickle (missing: David and Karen Penicaro).



Our newer members over the last several years are enthusiastic supporters of the Rangers. They include Tina Ammerman, vice president and class coordinator, and Pat Mascenik, publicity. Many also dance and serve as angels with other clubs.

We are thankful for our long-term members who mentor and continue to provide an atmosphere of fun and friendship: Donna Poyer, president; Karen Hartman, assistant class coordinator; Bob Leshnow, treasurer; and angels.

One of our strongest members, Paul Olsen, passed away in October. We remember Paul for his and Mary’s dedication to the Rangers. They were also very involved with their family and community. We often wondered if his quiet strength and empathy came from the fact that he was one of 10 siblings!

Several years ago, Eddie Mindlin reunited with his friend Don Lane, who had moved to his town. Eddie encouraged Don to return to square dancing, and he came to angel at a Kittatinny Mainstream lesson – a welcome addition to the class and the club. Eddie and Don started to carpool to other clubs, and Don became actively involved with many of them as well as the NNJSDA. Thus we felt a special sense of loss when Don, a gentle soul, passed away unexpectedly in December. He will be remembered for his inclusive nature and kindness.

The Kittatinny Rangers dance on second and fourth Fridays from September to June. We invite you to joyfully dance and enjoy our delicious refreshments.

~ Connie Smith (casglass@gmail.com)

LAKELAND S



GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH
9 TWO BRIDGES ROAD, TOWACO, NJ 07082
(Air-Conditioned Hall)

2nd/4th MONDAYS* May-August 7:30-9:30 September-April 8:00-10:00

Alternating MAINSTREAM and PLUS

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| MAY | 11 Mark Franks – <i>Anniversary Potluck Dinner 6:00, Dance 7:30</i> 18 Howard Richman – <i>Tie-Dye Hoedown: no experience needed!</i> |
| JUNE | 8 Howard Richman – <i>A Night at the Movies</i> 22 Paul Ingis – <i>Rainforest</i> 29 Howard Richman – <i>Moon Dance Hoedown: no experience needed!</i> |
| JULY | 13 Karin Rabe/Greg Moore – <i>Embrace Your Geekiness</i> 27 Betsy Gotta – <i>Ice Cream Social</i> |
| AUG. | 17 Fran Wadel – <i>Introductory Dance Open to the Public</i> |
| SEPT. | 14 Dan Koft – <i>Inside Out: inspired by movie and wardrobe</i> 28 Howard Richman – <i>Star Trek 60th Anniversary</i> |
| OCT. | 12 Paul Ingis – <i>Music and Bands</i> 26 Karin Rabe/Greg Moore – <i>Halloween: no experience needed!</i> |
| NOV. | 9 Paul Ingis – <i>USA 250th Anniversary</i> 23 Sandy Corey – <i>Autumn/Fall</i> |
| DEC.* <i>1st/3rd</i> | 7 Betsy Gotta – <i>Stars, Stripes, and Harbor Lights</i> 21 Howard Richman – <i>Ugly Sweater Holiday Dance</i> 28 No Dance |
| JAN. | 11 Fran Wadel – <i>Student Mainstream Dance</i> 25 Howard Richman – <i>Superhero</i> |
| FEB. | 8 Karin Rabe/Greg Moore – <i>Sports</i> 22 Karin Rabe/Greg Moore – <i>Aprons, Oven Mitts, and Promenades</i> |
| MAR. | 8 Fran Wadel – <i>Mainstream Graduation</i> 22 Dan Koft – <i>Birds and Bees/Spring</i> 29 Stephen Ingis – <i>Western Wear Hoedown: no experience needed!</i> |

For more information:

Email us – lakelandsquares@hotmail.com

Visit website – lakelandsquares.wix.com/lakeland



Ahoy! Lakeland has become a dress-up-for-the-theme club. The vacation theme featured dancers posing under a beach umbrella with sunglasses and everything vacation. At our Veterans Day dance, people came in uniform, military-style clothing, or red, white, and blue. On polka dot night, all kinds of dots were seen – even cutout cloth dots added to our clothes – and many toys for tots were donated. Mardi Gras saw brightly colored clothes and lots of beads. Pirate night featured earrings and hand claws. Dancers celebrated winter wonderland in hats, gloves, and scarves. For Halloween, 19 dancers joined the costume parade in a wide variety of outfits, including three minions.

One of the most popular themes was nursery rhymes, where the following were spotted on the dance floor: Muffin Man, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Mary and her little lamb, Little Bo-Peep, Little Miss Muffet, the dog from Old Mother Hubbard, the cow that jumped over the moon, Wee Willie Winkie, Jack and Jill, Old King Cole, Mary Mary (quite contrary), a blind mouse, and the housewife chopping off its tail. Thank you to Celia Longendyck and Doina Ralea for all the planning and decorating.



Sadly, we have lost 12 dancers. Gil Collins, Donald Lane, and Jane Ross passed away. Ruth and Ric Lufkin retired to Pennsylvania. Taimi and Bob Reip relocated. Others are no longer dancing due to medical issues: Janet and Steve Eid, Eddie Mindlin, Arthur Sakelakos, and Aleta Schulien. We miss these wonderful Lakelanders.

Thankfully, we have seven excellent and enthusiastic students who graduated on March 23: Bill Faber, Lisa Forrest, Martin Gurney, Cathy Harris, Charlie Harris, Terry Kearney, and Amanda Ouzer.

~ Janet and Monte Montagnino (montebearsden@aol.com)

MIDDLETOWN RAMBLERS 2026

Alternating Mainstream and Plus Square Dance Club
 Fridays 7:30–9:30 PM
 Middletown, NJ Area



middletownramblers.org

| Date | Caller/Theme | Date | Caller/Theme |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| May 1 | Mark Franks | Aug. 28 | Betsy Gotta |
| May 8 | Betsy Gotta | Sept. 11 | Howard Richman* |
| May 15 | Doug Kauffman | Sept. 18 | Mark Franks |
| May 22 | Karin Rabe & Greg Moore | Sept. 25 | Betsy Gotta |
| May 29 | Howard Richman | Oct. 2 | Doug Kauffman* |
| June 5 | Betsy Gotta* | Oct. 9 | Betsy Gotta |
| June 12 | Paul Ingis | Oct. 16 | Mark Franks |
| June 19 | Howard Richman | Oct. 23 | Paul Ingis |
| June 26 | Jenn Engimann | Oct. 30 | Howard Richman |
| July 10 | Karin Rabe & Greg Moore | Nov. 6 | Betsy Gotta* |
| July 17 | Howard Richman | Nov. 13 | Doug Kauffman |
| July 24 | Karin Rabe & Greg Moore | Nov. 20 | Howard Richman |
| July 31 | Betsy Gotta | Dec. 4 | Mark Franks* |
| Aug. 7 | Betsy Gotta* | Dec. 11 | Betsy Gotta |
| Aug. 14 | Paul Ingis | Dec. 18 | Howard Richman |
| Aug. 21 | Howard Richman | <i>*Ice Cream/Birthdays</i> | |

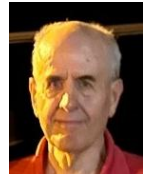
The Middletown Ramblers meet in an air-conditioned hall in Monmouth County every Friday night all year round (except holiday weekends). Our current president, Larry Sherwood, has held this position multiple times!



The Ramblers are proud to have Doug Kauffman as our Tuesday night teacher. Class coordinators are Kelsey Kazmac and Patty Ross. This year's 12 Mainstream graduates all continued on to Plus. Angels and students are having a lot of fun, and some recent graduates are getting involved with the club and the Association:

- Karen Berner and Sandra Stewart co-coordinate refreshments.
- Kelsey Kazmac is NNJSDA delegate as well as a class coordinator.
- Leslie Knott is club secretary.
- John Luard is membership chair.

We greatly miss two of our members. Michael O'Farrell passed away on October 14, 2025. A 2015 graduate, he was enthusiastic from the start. Mike served as a board member, Sunshine Club chair, and NNJSDA delegate. He regularly visited other clubs and willingly helped anywhere needed.



Al Peskoe passed away on January 10, 2026. He graduated in 2003, angeled for 12 years, and was president from 2010-2011. He greeted guests, made announcements, generously contributed knickknacks as prizes, and referred to the Ramblers as "the greatest eating club"!



Check our website for upcoming locations while Croydon Hall is being renovated. Join us on Friday nights for summer dancing – and lots of Raid miles!

~ Jane Mastrolia (j.mastrolia@comcast.net)



Halloween Dance



Students and angels



Holiday Potluck Dinner-Dance

We heartily welcome new members Ed and Maureen Pedersen and Sharon Trimble to our club. In addition, we congratulate Sharon on her graduation from the Northeast Callers School.

At the end of the summer, Maryjane Clewell spent a week in Williamsburg, Virginia, with her family. They visited Jamestown and the Virginia Living Museum, rode the car ferry across the James River, and relaxed around the pool.

In September, several of our members attended the final Y Squares dance. When Louis and I were new Mainstream dancers more than 35 years ago, Y Squares was one of the clubs we frequented. We will always be grateful for their hospitality and encouragement.

Maryjane Clewell and Claire Zimmerman took a vacation that included Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where they visited the Phipps Conservatory and rode the double-decker bus and the incline train. In Ohio, they saw the world's largest cuckoo clock, took a train ride through Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and visited the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Susan Adam and a college friend enjoyed two four-day watercolor workshops at the historic Shawnee Inn on the Delaware River through the Road Scholar organization. They learned a lot, had a grand time, and were proud of their beginner painting results.

Motiv8ors members celebrated the holiday season with a potluck dinner of delicious and varied homemade soups, breads, deviled eggs, and desserts. Yum! Good food was followed by a fun evening of dancing called by Karin Rabe and Greg Moore. Who could ask for more? We plan to make this an annual event.

Our members could be seen on the dance floor at Autumn Leaves Festival (Vermont), Harvest Festival Hoedown (Pennsylvania), NNJSDA Mini-Festival, Cherry Ridge Campsites (Pennsylvania), and WASCA Convention (Virginia).

New arrivals: Cathy and Don Schlesinger were tickled blue upon the birth of their newest grandchild, Jared Thomas. With open arms and loving hearts, Louis and I welcomed grandbaby #6, Rivkah Basya.

It is with a heavy heart that we note the passing of Fred Meyer, a former officer of Motiv8ors as well as Hi Taws and Belles & Beaux. A kind and gentle man, he always had a joke to tell and a smile on his face. In addition to square dancing, he loved ballroom dancing and his longtime partner, Rochelle.

~ Jan Thompson (ltpt1@yahoo.com)

HANDHOLDS: EASY DOES IT

When taking another's hand during a call, please take hold loosely and gently ... and then release quickly. Never grip a hand or continue holding while going on to the next dancer or call. Very loose holds will keep hands happy and the square moving.



Motiv8ors

motiv8ors.org

Sundays at American Legion Post 171
17-08 River Road, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410



Full C1 6:00-6:30

C1 Teach 7:00-7:30

Class Level C1 6:30-7:00

A+New C1 calls 7:30-9:00

Beginning September: 6:00-7:00 C1, 7:00-9:00 A

Apr. 26 Betsy Gotta

Sept. 27 Betsy Gotta

May 17 Mark Franks

Oct. 11 Betsy Gotta

May 31 Betsy Gotta

Oct. 25 Mark Franks

June 14 Betsy Gotta

Nov. 15 Karin Rabe/Greg Moore

July 12 Betsy Gotta

Nov. 29 Betsy Gotta

Aug. 9 Betsy Gotta*

Dec. 13 Betsy Gotta

Sept. 13 Karin Rabe/Greg Moore

Dec. 20 Mark Franks

***August 9 – C1 GRADUATION!!!**

Advanced and Challenge Club Singles Welcome Computer Squares
Maryjane: 551-206-7905 cmimigirl@aol.com Rich: 845-735-3222



Info: Karen Condon
201-841-7523

kmc07834@yahoo.com

REELERS

reelers.nnjsda.org

Ironia School, Randolph, NJ 07869
303 Dover-Chester Road (Route 513)

1st and 3rd Fridays (with summer break)

7:30 – Rounds 8:00-10:15 – PL/RD

Fall location and dance program subject to change

Round dance classes at various levels: call/text cuer Mary Pickett at 908-419-3605

05/01 Ed Foote (PA) – MS/PL/RD

Sounds of the '60s and '70s

05/15 Mark Franks (NJ) – MS/PL/RD

Ice Cream Social

05/29 Betsy Gotta (NJ) – Intro MS

Community Dance

06/05 Howard Richman (NJ) – MS/PL/RD

Beach Bash

09/18 Dan Nordbye (Arizona)

Cheers to 65 Years!

MS/PL/Rounds – PeopleCare, Bridgewater

65th Anniversary Dance

10/02 Paul Ingis (NJ)

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

10/16 Karin Rabe and Greg Moore (NJ)

Neckties and Scarves

11/06 Ed Foote (PA)

Give Thanks (food donation)

11/20 Clay Goss (DE)

Books for Kids (new books)

12/04 Howard Richman (NJ)

Golden Oldies

12/18 Mark Franks (NJ)

All That Glitters

1, 3 Fri. Sept.-June**Karen Condon: 201-841-7523**reelers.nnjstda.org**Ironia School, 303 Dover-Chester Road (Route 513)****Cell for dance: 973-216-4524**

Greetings! We're ready to "reel" in summer after a cold, snowy winter! Our dance year so far has been a busy, fun-filled one with plenty of great dancing, smiles, and laughter to go around. For our dance featuring caller Ted Lizotte from New Hampshire, we had a wonderful turnout with more than eight squares including raiders from Bee Sharps, Belles & Beaux, and Lakeland Squares.

Along with renewing friendships and enjoying more square dancing after our summer hiatus, we sadly grieved the passing of three treasured Reelers – Donald Lane, Paul Olsen, and Judy Smith. All of them added their own special uniqueness to our club and to our lives, and they are truly missed.

Our holiday party was graciously hosted once again by Kathy Fetch. Along with her home's holiday décor, great food and games added to the festivities.



This year's Plus class has 12 students. With our dedicated angels, we have three squares dancing on class nights, making class night feel like dance night!

Several Reelers – Gale Frankle, Helen and Bruce Haskell, Nancy Jacobs, Lea and Victor Keen, and Linda and Rick Murphy – attended the ever-popular WASCA Spring Festival in March in the Washington, DC, area. Their dance shoes are now well worn!

Reelers love to raid and were the only club to complete the NNJSDA's trial "Visitation" program in 2024 and 2025. We invite Mainstream clubs to raid us during the rest of this spring season, as we have added Mainstream alternating with Plus; admission for Mainstream-only dancers is reduced to \$5.

Be sure to join us at the PeopleCare Center on **September 18** for our **65th Anniversary Dance**: "Cheers to 65 Years!" Special guest Dan Nordbye from Arizona has called in many states and five foreign countries, and has more than 90 singing and patter recordings. The format will be Mainstream/Plus/Rounds, so everyone can come and help celebrate our anniversary! Raiders are always welcome!! For more information, please visit our website at reelers.nnjstda.org.

~ Phyllis Wooster (phw612@gmail.com)

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

DECEMBER 31, 2026 – 9:00 PM TO 12:15 AM



Kathy & Dan
Koft

WITH



Betsy & Roy
Gotta

PeopleCare Center

120 Finderne Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ

Format: Equal time for Squares and Rounds
Between square dance tips, there will be 3 to 5 rounds
(depending on the length of the rounds).

Program: 2 Mainstream tips followed by 1 Plus tip,
with rounds between.

This is a dessert dance, not a dinner dance.
You are welcome to bring a dessert to share,
but it is not required. Champagne at midnight.

Attendance is limited to 8 squares.
If you plan to attend, you must contact Roy Gotta at
roygotta@optonline.net or 732-718-2954.

RocklandRockytops

WELCOME TO OUR CLUB

ALTERNATING MAINSTREAM AND PLUS TIPS

Second and Fourth Fridays 7:00–9:00 PM (All Year Round)

Congers Community Center – 8 Gilchrest Rd., Congers, NY

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 05/08/26 | ED FOOTE <i>Ice Cream Social</i> | 11/27/26* | STEPHEN INGIS |
| 05/22/26 | RICK GITTELMAN | 12/11/26 | NO DANCE |
| 06/12/26 | BETSY GOTTA | 12/18/26 | SANDY COREY <i>Free Holiday Spirit Dance</i> |
| 06/26/26 | HOWARD RICHMAN | 12/25/26 | NO DANCE |
| 07/10/26 | PAUL INGIS | | <u>2027</u> |
| 07/24/26 | JIM EMORY | 01/08/27 | PAUL INGIS |
| 08/14/26 | HOWARD RICHMAN | 01/22/27 | RANDY LONGOBUCCO |
| 08/28/26 | SANDY COREY | 02/12/27* | FRAN WADEL <i>Student/Valentine's Day Dance</i> |
| 09/11/26 | NO DANCE <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> | 02/26/27 | HOWARD RICHMAN |
| 09/25/26 | PAUL INGIS | 03/12/27 | LARRY SHIPMAN |
| 10/09/26 | LARRY SHIPMAN | 03/26/27 | NO DANCE <i>Good Friday</i> |
| 10/23/26 | JIM EMORY | 04/09/27 | BETSY GOTTA |
| 11/13/26 | HOWARD RICHMAN | 04/23/27 | MARK FRANKS |

Directions to Congers: See biweekly dance announcements.

For further information: Don 845-623-2772 or 845-642-5624

*Likely venue for this dance: Maywood Recreation Center

It was an unusually cold and snowy winter, but luckily the weather did not necessitate any RocklandRockytops dance cancellations. However, we were disappointed to have to cancel our February Student Dance with Fran Wadel due to unavailability of a venue.

Betsy Gotta was scheduled to call our October 10 dance. As most of you are aware, she had a bad accident, and we were fortunate to have Paul Ingis fill in. He called a wonderful dance and gave us a repeat performance on November 28. Thankfully, Betsy is now fully recovered, and we were delighted to welcome her back at our February 27 dance.

The morning of December 19, 2025, literally at the 11th hour, Sandy Corey became ill and was unable to call our Holiday Spirit dance. Luckily, Howard Richman was available and came to the rescue. Seasonal songs and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Thank you, Howard, for the festive occasion!

We had a nice turnout for our first dance of 2026 with 19 visitors from clubs in New Jersey as well as Katonah, New York, including a number of new faces. Howard Richman again was our caller, and it was another delightful evening.

On January 23, we were treated for the first time to the fine calling of Paul Ingis's son Stephen. Other callers who kept our toes tapping this season were Randy Longobucco, Ed Foote, Mark Franks, and Jim Emory.

Congratulations to Cathy and Don Schlesinger on the October 15 arrival of another grandson, Jared Thomas! Best wishes to Debbie Moran for a speedy recovery from her fall on the ice. You are missed on the dance floor, Debbie! Our thoughts and prayers are with Theresa Kane and her family for the recovery of Theresa's father from his critical health issues.

We hope all dancers (and callers) stay healthy and accident free, and that we see you soon in a square at RocklandRockytops.

~ Joan Schierlitz (dancinggrandma@verizon.net)

**75th National Square
Dance Convention[®]**



June 24-27 2026

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Waco, Texas

<https://75nsdctx.com>

Here are some special things you'll enjoy:

- A huge, multi-hall event with dancing from morning to late night
- Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, rounds, contra, line, clogging, youth halls
- Warm, welcoming atmosphere
- Square dance halls: all programs, all day
- Round dance halls: Phases II-VI with teaches and walk-throughs
- Try new dance forms; many workshops and clinics welcome beginners
- Education sessions on dozens of topics
- Sightseeing around Waco, Texas

66TH WASCA ANNUAL SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE

SPRING FESTIVAL REVVIN' IN 2027



MARCH 18-20, 2027 • HERNDON, VA

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON WASHINGTON DULLES AIRPORT • WWW.WASCACLUBS.ORG

GREAT CALLERS!

Ken Burke, Bill Harrison, Eric Henerlau, Dayle Hodge, Ted Lizotte, Ken Ritucci, Mike Seastrom, Buddy Weaver, Jennifer Lins (line dancing), and Jeff Hill & Kerri Musico (clogging)

AMAZING CUERS!

Rey & Sherry Garza,
Randy & Marie Preskitt,
and Curt & Tammy Worlock

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES: Free parking, 10% discount at hotel restaurant & café, free hotel shuttle from IAD, and free hotel shuttle to Metro

SAVE THE DATES

WASCA 2028: March 16-18 & WASCA 2029: March 15-17

During our last dance of the past season, longtime member and new vice president Ken Robinson successfully danced a full tip – the first one since his recent surgery. We wish him continued success in his recovery! We are grateful that our longtime club cuer, Roy Gotta, has also recovered from recent surgery.

We have hosted several raiding clubs this season and appreciate all those who came out to visit us and perform their entertaining rituals. At our final summer dance last August, we had the pleasure of hosting raiders from both Belles & Beaux and Reelers. For those who have never experienced these raid routines, either by participating or witnessing, please enjoy them through this link (unmute for music): rutgerspromenaders.org/videos2/raids.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature made her presence known in a more memorable way than usual this past winter. As a result, we were forced to cancel one of our January dances outright as well as find an alternative venue for our two February dances. We are grateful to the staff from the PeopleCare Center for their kind assistance in helping us out with our desire to keep the dancing going.

Many of you have danced with my husband, John, through the years of our club’s existence. For those who might not be aware, he passed away last August after several years of declining health. It was through my introduction to him that I also learned the joys of square dancing. For this, I will always be grateful.

~ Mary Ann Ryan-Erdek (merdek56@gmail.com)



Rutgers Promenaders
Square and Round Dance Club

www.rutgerspromenaders.org

Mainstream Dances Schedule

Pioneer Grange #1, 410 Ridge Road, Dayton, NJ 08810
1st & 3rd Sundays (5th as noted), Class/Workshop 1:30–2:30
 Dance (Mainstream & Rounds) 2:30–5:00

Guests: \$8 (adult) / \$4 (under 18)

For further information, contact Ginny at 732-690-5280

| 2026 | Theme | Caller/Cuer |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| April 19 | Crazy Hat Day! | Gottas & Kofts |
| May 3 | Color Wheel | Dan Koft / Kathy Koft |
| May 17 | | Betsy Gotta / Roy Gotta |
| June 7 | Talk to the Animals | Kofts & Gottas |
| July 19 | Summer Dance #1 (<i>no rounds</i>) | Mark Franks |
| August 16 | Summer Dance #2 | Dan Koft / Kathy Koft |
| September 20 | Welcome Back! / Open House | Dan Koft / Kathy Koft |

Independence Squares & Times Squares

Present

Wheel Around NJ

Featuring:

*Dan
Koft*

Mainstream/Plus &
1 Advanced Star Tip

Saturday,
May 9, 2026
3:00 - 6:00 PM

PeopleCare Center
121 Finderne Ave.
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

\$10 per person

We welcome all to our inclusive LGBTQ+ square dance community!

independencesquares.org - timesquares.nyc

The end of summer 2025 saw Times Squares finalizing our plans for fall and winter dances and beginning our planning process for 2027. Our Mainstream class that started at the beginning of August graduated several repeat students and three new dancers, all of whom became club members.

The new dancers had learned enough by October to participate in our annual Peel the Pumpkin fly-in. This successful one-day event, featuring callers Ken Burke and Betsy Gotta, was attended by members of several of our sister clubs – some coming from as far away as California! And Betsy was ever the trooper, having sustained an injury shortly before the fly-in. Perched on her stool, she did not let her temporary incapacity get in the way of providing her usual excellent calling.

Our fall and winter line-up of dances included favorite callers. Mark Franks, Betsy Gotta, Ted Lizotte, Ett McAtee, and Howard Richman all provided a great time at Thursday and Saturday themed dances including Wigstock, Turkey Lurkey, Boxing/Boxer Day, Pajama Party (with a glow stick tip), and Mad for Plaid. Dancers and callers joined in the various festivities by donning costumes and accessories, making a fun time for all.

Our first open house of the year exceeded expectations with a crowd that broke all recent records – five squares and 16 first-time attendees! As a result, we started our January Mainstream class with 14 new students who will be graduating in a few weeks. They have been supported by many of our club members serving as angels. Thank you, angels!

The Mainstream class is only one part of an ambitious program plan. In addition, we have a Thursday Plus class combined with an Advanced workshop. This is the first time we have offered Plus instruction in a while, and we have several Mainstream dancers who have been eager to move to the next level. They too will be graduating shortly.

As we look forward, summer will not be a quiet time. We are working on final preparations for Wheel Around New Jersey on May 9, co-sponsored with Independence Squares. We're also getting ready for various spring fly-ins and the annual IAGSDC Convention in Montreal in July.

~ Kim Norland (krnorland@hotmail.com)

USE THE NNJSDA EMAIL INFO-LIST

Did you ever forget about a dance you planned to attend, go to the wrong location, or arrive to discover that an event was canceled?

It's easy to keep informed about updates to club, Association, and other regional events: Simply subscribe to the free NNJSDA email info-list to send and receive messages (on dance-related topics only). The list of members is never shared, although your address will be visible when you send a message.

To subscribe, go to the website and click on [Join Our Email List](#) on the top right.

Mason-Dixon Square Dancers Federation, Inc.
Presents the

61st

Star Spangled Banner Festival

JULY 16-18, 2026

Getting Our **KICKS** in 2026

AT THE

 **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON**
1726 REISTERSTOWN
PIKESVILLE, MD 21208

Callers

Ken Burke (TN)
Bill Harrison (MD)
Eric Henerlau (CA)
Dayle Hodge (MD)
Tony Oxendine (NC)

Cuers

Rey & Sherry Garza (CA)
Amy & Ken Shotting (MD)
Curt & Tammy Worlock (FL)

"This Ain't Your Daddy's Square Dance"



www.marylandsquare dancing.com



Square Dance Program:

- SSD/Soft Plus thru C1
- Computer numbers in DBD, Adv, & C1
- Line Dancing
- Clogging

Round Dance Program:

- 2x2s in Plus Hall in evenings
- Continuous round dancing to Phase VI
- Teach sessions & workshops
- Wood flooring in main ballrooms

Tips for Your Tips: Playing with Ocean Waves

reprinted from Grand Square September 2016

Many calls in the Basic and Mainstream programs are defined with a starting formation of facing dancers. However, to make choreography more interesting and challenging, some callers will use a mini-wave or an ocean wave as the starting formation for those same calls. The facing couples/ocean wave rule states that anything that can be done from facing couples can be done from an ocean wave and vice versa. Thinking quickly and knowing how to proceed from your formation will determine whether your square is successful or not.

Pass Thru – The majority of time, Pass Thru is called when you are facing another dancer. From this position, imagine the call has two parts: (1) taking one step to be side-by-side with the person (right shoulder to right shoulder), and (2) taking another step to move past him or her, thus completing the passing action. However, if you are in an ocean wave when Pass Thru is called, quickly think to yourself, “I have already done the first part. Now I need to take only one more step to complete the call.” In short, ocean wave = half of a Pass Thru or Pull By.

This thought process can be extended and applied to other calls. In each case, regardless of whether the starting position is facing dancers, a mini-wave, or an ocean wave, *the end position is the same.*

Right and Left Thru – The step that completes the passing action is followed *immediately* by a Courtesy Turn – which comes a lot faster than you think.

Dosado – The step that completes the passing action is followed immediately by taking a step to one’s right to pass back-to-back with the other dancer.

Square Thru – The step that completes the pull by action is followed immediately by turning one quarter (90°) into your box, followed by extending your left hand for the next Pull By. Note: You will be working with the dancers from your original wave.

Turn Thru – From a right-handed ocean wave, the Turn Thru is with the person whose right hand you are holding.

Slide Thru – The step that completes the passing action is followed immediately by men turning one quarter to their right and women turning one quarter to their left. Note: Do not assume you will end in facing lines; follow the definition.

Right and Left Grand – Imagine your square is in a thar position, which is really two ocean waves crossing each other in the middle. Following the same thought process, it requires taking only one step forward to complete the first right hand Pull By (usually followed by left, right, and left Pull Bys). In the case of Weave the Ring, the first step forward completes the first right shoulder pass.

Load the Boat (Plus) – When starting from a tidal wave, frequently the caller will helpfully suggest that dancers rear back before they begin to execute the call. When you rear back to momentarily “become” two facing lines, it is easier to recognize whether you are a center or an end, and to see which dancer you are “facing” and thus with whom you will interact.

Go ahead: Get your feet wet, and have fun playing with ocean waves!

~ Jan Thompson (Motiv8ors)

Rock the Boat is Back!

ROCK THE BOAT 2027

Square Dance Cruise
MS • Plus • Advanced • C1



January 4-16, 2027 • 12-Night Caribbean Cruise • Norwegian Bliss



Justin Russell & Zach Roberts
Memphis, TN



Michael & Janienne Kellogg
Los Angeles, CA

Itinerary Highlights

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Jan 4 | New York, NY | Jan 10 | Tortola, BVI |
| Jan 5-6 | At Sea | Jan 11 | St. Maarten |
| Jan 7 | Puerto Plata, DR | Jan 12 | St. Thomas |
| Jan 8 | San Juan, PR | Jan 13-15 | At Sea |
| Jan 9 | St. Kitts | Jan 16 | New York, NY |

Cabin Pricing

Inside Cabin **\$2,377.05** pp USD

Ocean View Cabin Call for pricing

Balcony Cabin **\$2,844.10** pp USD

Prices include taxes, port charges, dance fees, and listed amenities
Based on double occupancy

The Travel Squared Travel Difference

- ✓ Multiple dance spaces onboard
- ✓ Dance sessions by program & full-group dances
- ✓ Over 26 hours of dancing
- ✓ Solo dancers welcome
- ✓ Private cocktail party
- ✓ Themed dance night

Onboard Activities

- Casino
- Fitness Center
- Broadway-Jersey Boys
- Two-level go-kart track
- Laser tag
- Aqua park & water slides

Exclusive Group Amenities

BALCONY GUESTS

- Unlimited Open Bar
- Prepaid Gratuities
- 150 min WIFI
- Specialty Dining (4)
- \$50 Excursion Credit
Per cabin / Per port

INSIDE CABIN GUESTS

- Unlimited Open Bar
- Prepaid Gratuities
- Specialty Dining (2)

Deposit & Payment

\$500 deposit holds your cabin and locks in the lowest price

Balance due: August 28, 2026

Ask about payment plans. Non-dancer pricing available

TO BE PART OF OUR GROUP AND RECEIVE ALL OF THE LISTED AMENITIES
YOU MUST BOOK YOUR CABIN THROUGH TRAVEL SQUARED TRAVEL

☎ 484-995-4188 ✉ jeff@travelsquaredtravel.com

Sponsored by Tinseltown Squares, West Hollywood, CA



Travel Squared Travel • 1146 Heartwood Cypress Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33881

Calendar of Member Clubs' Advertised Dance Events

List of dance events prepared from *member club ads appearing in this issue*. See ads for details. All dances are in NJ unless noted. A = Advanced; C = Challenge; MS = Mainstream; PL = Plus; RD = Rounds; TBA = To Be Announced; *italics* = student-level MS or intro/dance party; / = equal time; , = programs of differing length; - = one or two tips only.

| Date | Club | Caller/Cuer | Location | Program |
|-------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| MAY | | | | |
| 1 F | Hunterdon Flutterwheels | Richman | Flemington | MS/PL |
| | Middletown Ramblers | Franks | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | Reelers | Foote/Pickett | Randolph | MS/PL/RD |
| 3 Su | Circle Eights | Weiner | Maywood | MS-PL |
| | Rutgers Promenaders | Koft/Koft | Dayton | MS/RD |
| 8 F | Bee Sharps | Koft/Bradt | Bridgewater | MS/PL/RD |
| | Middletown Ramblers | Gotta | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | RocklandRockytops | Foote | Congers, NY | MS/PL |
| 11 M | Lakeland Squares | Franks | Towaco | MS/PL |
| 15 F | Hunterdon Flutterwheels | Bragg | Flemington | MS/PL |
| | Middletown Ramblers | Kauffman | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | Reelers | Franks/Pickett | Randolph | MS/PL/RD |
| 16 Sa | NNJSDA Dance | Williamson/Pickett | Bridgewater | MS/PL/RD |
| 17 Su | Motiv8ors | Franks | Fair Lawn | A, C1 |
| | Rutgers Promenaders | Gotta/Gotta | Dayton | MS/RD |
| 18 M | <i>Lakeland Squares</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Towaco</i> | <i>Intro</i> |
| 22 F | Bee Sharps | P. Ingis, S. Ingis | Bridgewater | MS-PL |
| | Middletown Ramblers | Rabe, Moore | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | RocklandRockytops | Gittelman | Congers, NY | MS/PL |
| 29 F | Hunterdon Flutterwheels | Rabe, Moore | Flemington | MS/PL |
| | Middletown Ramblers | Richman | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | <i>Reelers</i> | <i>Gotta</i> | <i>Randolph</i> | <i>Intro</i> |
| 31 Su | Motiv8ors | Gotta | Fair Lawn | A, C1 |
| JUNE | | | | |
| 3 W | Belles & Beaux | Wadel | Maywood | MS-PL |
| 5 F | Hunterdon Flutterwheels | P. Ingis | Flemington | MS/PL |
| | Middletown Ramblers | Gotta | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | Reelers | Richman/Pickett | Randolph | MS/PL/RD |
| 7 Su | Rutgers Promenaders | Kofts and Gottas | Dayton | MS/RD |
| 8 M | Lakeland Squares | Richman | Towaco | MS/PL |
| 12 F | Bee Sharps | Rabe, Moore/Booz | Bridgewater | MS/PL/RD |
| | Middletown Ramblers | P. Ingis | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | RocklandRockytops | Gotta | Congers, NY | MS/PL |
| 13 Sa | NNJSDA Dance | Bachelor/ McCabe, Denniston | Bridgewater | MS/PL/RD |
| 14 Su | Circle Eights | Gotta | Maywood | MS-PL |
| | Motiv8ors | Gotta | Fair Lawn | A, C1 |
| 17 W | Belles & Beaux | Clewell | Maywood | MS-PL |
| 19 F | Middletown Ramblers | Richman | Middletown | MS/PL |
| 22 M | Lakeland Squares | P. Ingis | Towaco | MS/PL |
| 26 F | Middletown Ramblers | Engimann | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | RocklandRockytops | Richman | Congers, NY | MS/PL |
| 29 M | <i>Lakeland Squares</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Towaco</i> | <i>Intro</i> |
| JULY | | | | |
| 1 W | Belles & Beaux | Corey | Maywood | MS-PL |
| 8 W | NNJSDA Dance | Gotta/Gotta | TBA | MS/PL/RD |
| 10 F | Middletown Ramblers | Rabe, Moore | Middletown | MS/PL |

(July – continued)

| | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 10 F | RocklandRockytops | P. Ingis | Congers, NY | MS/PL |
| 12 Su | Motiv8ors | Gotta | Fair Lawn | A, C1 |
| 13 M | Lakeland Squares | Rabe, Moore | Towaco | MS/PL |
| 15 W | Belles & Beaux | S. Ingis | Maywood | MS-PL |
| 17 F | Middletown Ramblers | Richman | Middletown | MS/PL |
| 19 Su | Rutgers Promenaders | Franks | Dayton | MS |
| 22 W | NNJSDA Dance | Richman | Bridgewater | MS/PL |
| 24 F | Middletown Ramblers | Rabe, Moore | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | RocklandRockytops | Emory | Congers, NY | MS/PL |
| 27 M | Lakeland Squares | Gotta | Towaco | MS/PL |
| 31 F | Middletown Ramblers | Gotta | Middletown | MS/PL |

AUGUST

| | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 5 W | Belles & Beaux | Richman | Maywood | MS-PL |
| 7 F | Middletown Ramblers | Gotta | Middletown | MS/PL |
| 9 Su | Motiv8ors | Gotta | Fair Lawn | A, C1 |
| 12 W | NNJSDA Dance | Engimann | TBA | MS/PL |
| 14 F | Middletown Ramblers | P. Ingis | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | RocklandRockytops | Richman | Congers, NY | MS/PL |
| 16 Su | Rutgers Promenaders | Koft/Koft | Dayton | MS/RD |
| 17 M | <i>Lakeland Squares</i> | <i>Wadel</i> | <i>Towaco</i> | <i>Intro</i> |
| 19 W | Belles & Beaux | P. Ingis | Maywood | MS-PL |
| 21 F | Middletown Ramblers | Richman | Middletown | MS/PL |
| 26 W | NNJSDA Dance | Bragg | Bridgewater | MS/PL |
| 28 F | Middletown Ramblers | Gotta | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | RocklandRockytops | Corey | Congers, NY | MS/PL |

SEPTEMBER

| | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|----------|
| 2 W | Belles & Beaux | Franks | Maywood | MS-PL |
| 10 Th | Bee Sharps | Sikorsky/Pickett | Bridgewater | MS/PL/RD |
| 11 F | Middletown Ramblers | Richman | Middletown | MS/PL |
| 13 Su | Circle Eights | Richman | Maywood | MS-PL |
| | Motiv8ors | Rabe, Moore | Fair Lawn | A, C1 |
| 14 M | Lakeland Squares | Koft | Towaco | MS/PL |
| 16 W | Belles & Beaux | Rabe, Moore | Maywood | MS-PL |
| 18 F | Middletown Ramblers | Franks | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | Reelers | Nordbye/Pickett | Bridgewater | MS/PL/RD |
| 20 Su | Rutgers Promenaders | Koft/Koft | Dayton | MS/RD |
| 25 F | Bee Sharps | Franks/Rumble | Bridgewater | MS/PL/RD |
| | Middletown Ramblers | Gotta | Middletown | MS/PL |
| | RocklandRockytops | P. Ingis | Congers, NY | MS/PL |
| 27 Su | Motiv8ors | Gotta | Fair Lawn | A, C1 |
| 28 M | Lakeland Squares | Richman | Towaco | MS/PL |

Conventions, Festivals, Specials, and Weekends**MAY**

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-------|-----------------|---------|
| 1-3 | GS Campers | Engel | Quarryville, PA | MS/PL |
| 9 | Wheel Around NJ | Koft | Bridgewater | MS/PL-A |

JUNE

| | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 12-14 | GS Campers | Black | Shartlesville, PA | MS/PL |
| 24-27 | National Convention | Multiple Callers/Cuers | Waco, TX | All Programs |

JULY

| | | | | |
|-------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 16-18 | Star Spangled Banner | Multiple Callers/Cuers | Pikesville, MD | MS/PL/AC1/RD |
| 17-19 | GS Campers | Engel | Shartlesville, PA | MS/PL |
| 26 | Midsummer Mania | Multiple CCNJ Callers | Bridgewater | MS |

AUGUST

| | | | | |
|-----|------------|--------|-------------------|-------|
| 7-9 | GS Campers | Franks | Shartlesville, PA | MS/PL |
|-----|------------|--------|-------------------|-------|

SEPTEMBER

| | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 4-7 | Labor Day Weekend | Harrison, Gotta/Gotta | Honesdale, PA | PL/A/RD |
| 11-13 | GS Campers | Engel | Newmanstown, PA | MS/PL |
| 18-20 | Cherry Ridge/GSC | Bragg, Engimann | Honesdale, PA | PL |

OCTOBER

| | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 8-12 | NE Callers School | Multiple Callers | Sturbridge, MA | Beginner/Exp. |
| 16-17 | Autumn Leaves | Multiple Callers/Cuers | Brattleboro, VT | PL/A/C1,2/RD |
| 24 | Peel the Pumpkin | Moger, Engimann | New York, NY | MS/PL/A/C2 |

NOVEMBER

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|-----|---------------|
| 8 | NNJSDA Mini-Festival | Eno, Gotta, Moger/Gotta | TBA | MS/PL/A/C1/RD |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|-----|---------------|

DECEMBER

| | | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| 31 | New Year's Eve | Gotta, Koft/Gotta, Koft | Bridgewater | MS,PL/RD |
|----|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------|

JANUARY 2027

| | | | | |
|------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| 4-16 | Rock the Boat Cruise | Kellogg, Russell | Caribbean | MS/PL/A/C1 |
|------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|

MARCH

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 18-20 | WASCA | Multiple Callers/Cuers | Herndon, VA | MS/PL/A/C/RD |
|-------|-------|------------------------|-------------|--------------|

Design your own artistic masterpiece: It's time for the

Grand Square Cover Contest 2026

The winning entry will be featured as the cover for the September issue.

- Members of NNJSDA clubs are eligible to enter. There is no limit on the number of entries.
- The winning entry will be featured with the artist's name on the cover of the fall issue
- Create your entry electronically as a Word table measuring 5x5 inches. Text and images may be either black or in color. All text is preferably editable.
- The subject may be any square dance theme, though not localized to a particular geographical area. Do not include your name as part of the design.
- For samples of past winners, visit nnjsda.org/covercontest/winner.php.
- Email an attachment by July 21 to: covercontest@nnjsda.org.
- The *Grand Square* editorial team will select the winning entry.
- All entries will become the property of *Grand Square*, and may be used to promote square dancing in various ways.

ADVERTISERS

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Autumn Leaves Festival..... 19 | Lakeland Squares 24 | Rock the Boat Cruise..... 40 |
| Bee Sharps 16 | Middletown Ramblers 26 | RocklandRockytops 32 |
| Belles & Beaux 18 | Motiv8ors 29 | Rutgers Promenaders..... 35 |
| CCNJ Midsummer Mania.....6 | New Year's Eve Dance 31 | Star Spangled Banner 38 |
| Cherry Ridge PL Weekend ...11 | Northeast Callers School..... 10 | TS Peel the Pumpkin 15 |
| Circle Eights21 | PL/A Labor Day Weekend... 8 | WASCA 34 |
| Garden State SD Campers...9 | Reelers 29 | Wheel Around NJ 36 |
| Hunterdon Flutterwheels.....21 | | |

CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AI Can't Square Dance!6 | Just for Fun 4 | Patrons..... 5 |
| Club News (in alpha order).... 17 | National Convention 2026 ... 33 | Presidents' Message 4 |
| Dance Calendar 41-43 | New MS/PL Programs..... 12-13 | Secret for New Dancers..... 17 |
| Dance Program Changes.... 13 | NNJSDA: | Tips for Your Tips 39 |
| Farewell to Our Friends9 | Email Info-List 37 | Using Website for Dances . 13 |
| Finding Dances Online..... 13 | Events..... 3 | Welcome, Graduates! 11 |
| Freeloaders 5 | Executive Board 2 | Where in the World 14-15 |
| GS Cover Contest..... 43 | Incentive Programs 5 | Y Squares Time Capsule..... 7 |
| Handholds 28 | Member Clubs..... 44 | |

NNJSDA MEMBER CLUBS

Clubs desiring to change their regular dance program, location, day, or time

MUST contact the corresponding secretary (see page 2) for clearance.

* = Round dancing included + = Plus tip(s) @ = 1 Advanced tip

Check ads for dance program details.

MAINSTREAM

- + **Belles & Beaux** – sqrdance.org/BellesBeaux 1, 3 Wednesday All Year
Maywood Recreation Center, 340 Duvier Place, Maywood 07607
- + **Circle Eights** – circle8s.nnjstda.org Various Sunday Sept.-June
Maywood Recreation Center, 340 Duvier Place, Maywood 07607
- + **Kittatinny Rangers** – kittatinnyrangers.com 2, 4 Fri. Sept.-June
First Presbyterian Church, 100 Main Street, Stanhope 07874
- * **Rutgers Promenaders** – rutgerspromenaders.org 1, 3 Sunday All Year
Pioneer Grange #1, 410 Ridge Road, Dayton 08810

ALTERNATING MAINSTREAM AND PLUS

- *@ **Bee Sharps** – beesharps.org 2, 4 Fri. Sept.-June
PeopleCare Center, 120 Finderne Avenue, Bridgewater 08807
- Hunterdon Flutterwheels** – hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjstda.org 1, 3 Fri. Sept.-June
Hunterdon County Complex Building 1, 314 State Route 12, Flemington 08822
- Lakeland Squares** – lakelandsquares.wix.com/lakeland 2, 4 Mon. All Year
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 9 Two Bridges Road, Towaco 07082
- Middletown Ramblers** – middletownramblers.org Every Fri. All Year
Check website for locations (near Leonardo 07737) while regular hall is renovated.
- RocklandRockytops** – sqrdance.org/RocklandRockytops 2, 4 Fri. All Year
Congers Community Center, 8 Gilchrest Road, Congers, NY 10920
- Times Squares** – timesquares.nyc Various Tues./Thurs./Sat. All Year
PS 3, 490 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014

PLUS

- ***Reelers** – reelers.nnjstda.org 1, 3 Fri. Sept.-June
Ironia School, 303 Dover-Chester Road (Route 513), Randolph 07869

ADVANCED, CHALLENGE 1

- Motiv8ors** – motiv8ors.org Various Sun. All Year
American Legion Post 171, 17-08 River Road, Fair Lawn 07410
- Times Squares** – timesquares.nyc Various Thurs. and Sat. All Year
PS 3, 490 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014

CANCELLATIONS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSURES:

Contact clubs and/or see nnjstda.org for information.

Club presidents and web contacts: Remember to mark canceled events on the NNJSDA website and email squaredance_info@nnjstda.org.

Grand Square editors reserve the right to edit, correct, or otherwise modify articles and ads submitted for publication. However, responsibility for accuracy of the information provided rests with authors and ad makers. Signed articles are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the NNJSDA.