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

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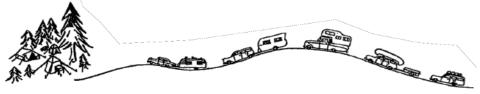




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NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR

As I write this, Summer is still in full swing. Tourists abound in our part of Maine this time of year and the roads are often difficult to manage; temperatures are also extremely elevated, just like many other parts of the country, but it is not the norm for here. As this issue of the *TIMES* arrives in your mailboxes, cooler temperatures are around the corner. I hope many of you have availed yourselves to view back issues of the *TIMES* on the NSDCA website. As noted in the last issue, all you have to do is navigate to the green menu bar item labeled "NSDCA Times" and click on an issue.

Speaking of information that is available on the NSDCA website, the last few years' daily International Camporee newsletters are available for viewing. If you were unable to attend this year's Camporee and want to find out more of what went on, you should read these 'Snooper' newsletters. Look for the green menu bar item labeled "Campouts." The dropdown menu has entries for Chapter campouts (under the "Campouts" item) and the International Camporees (under the "Camporees" item). After you click on "Camporees" scroll to the bottom of the page; on the righthand side is a box labeled "Past NSDCA International Camporees" where you can find the Snoopers for the years 2023 to the present under their drop-down menus (click on the arrowhead next to the Camporee of interest). Also please note there is a flyer and registration form for the upcoming 2026 International Camporee, which will be held in Bellville, Texas. Kudos to our Webmaster, Bob Summers (C175), for making things easy to find and use.

I thank Chapters C175 (Gypsy Squares, Ontario) and 031 (Badger Rovers, Wisconsin) for providing information on their Chapter callers and/or cuers. The Gypsies are truly an international Chapter, with members from Canada (Ontario and Quebec provinces) and the United States (New York). Several US Chapters have members from multiple states, but only C175 has members from both countries. You'll learn more about the Gypsies in Mary Anne Reinhard's article on page 40.

NSDCA Communications Director Karin Callander has provided a travelogue of her Spring visit to the Mississippi Gulf Coast (see page 33). Other than Karin's entry, I've not had any submissions on the topics of campgrounds, RV modifications, favorite campground signs, details on games and crafts done at campouts, etc. Please consider providing a contribution on one of these topics, or something you think would be of general interest to your fellow square dancers. Your article doesn't have to be the length of a novel (and shouldn't!); if you need help organizing your thoughts or an approach on how to present your material, please feel free to email me at NSDCAtimes@gmail.com (please include your Chapter number in all correspondence). Remember, this is *your* newsletter. Let's hear from you! Thank you.



John & Dolly Ide



ave you ever gone from one part of your house to another and when you got there, you wondered why you came? How about consciously thinking it's early June and time to travel to the NSDCA International Camporee, and the next time you think about the calendar, you realize it's almost Fall, Christmas is not far behind and your thinking of next year's Camporee. That's where Dolly and I are now. We had a great summer and thoroughly enjoyed the 67th NSDCA International Camporee in Shreveport, LA and the NSDC the following week, even though I couldn't square dance yet (too unstable after my broken leg). I have to wonder where all our members were in June and if you had as much fun as we did. So if you weren't there, you missed a great event. Just check the photos in this issue of the TIMES. Just a few statistics: I believe we had 39 rigs registered and two members staying offsite, for a total of 41 registrations. Fret not, because Susan Wolford, next year's Camporee Treasurer/Registrar has already processed at least 20 registrations for 2026.

A little more about next year: If you haven't already heard, we'll be at the Coushatte Recreation Ranch near Bellville, TX, just west of Houston. We've got a great group planning the 2026 Camporee, headed up by George Ferguson and Sandy McIntyre as General Chairs with Joey and Nikki Barrett, new Texas members, supporting them as Co-Chairs, and getting lots of help from Neal and Tricia Chartier, our current Board Secretary, as Liaison between the Board and Camporee Team. Also, Vice Presidents Roy Huddleston and Priscilla Newton are working really hard to organize and encourage all our 000 members and helping them find Chapters to join or start. This year the Board again voted to extend a \$50 registration fee discount to new members joining the NSDCA between now and then. We also gave that same discount to all who registered for next year in Shreveport, so if you weren't there, you missed out on that \$50 savings. But don't hesitate, sign up as soon as you can so George and Sandy can plan a spectacular event.

This year, we held the NSDCA's 67th Camporee and are now sneaking up on number 75 in 2033. I believe we can make it. The 68th is in Texas, while the 69th and forward have yet to be planned and announced, so let's bring in a little history to help establish our goals. The

('President' continued on page 6)

('President' continued from page 5)

first Camporee was held at Shavano Lake, WI in 1958. The NSDCA was incorporated in 1964 and had 150 member units, less than half of our current membership of 309 (see the statistics portion of our Annual Report). Ten years later, in 1974, there were 2290 registered member units, including Chapter 051, Aloha Oahu from Hawaii. What could we accomplish in ten years? In 1977, the NSDCA had approximately 3800 member units, out of which 472 camping units with 1385 members (including 474 youths) attended the 20th NSDCA Camporee in Elkhorn, WI. This year we still had more members than when the NSDCA started, we even had 6 or 8 "youths" with nothing for them to do unless they knew how to square dance, and about 13% of our membership attending the Camporee compared to 12% in 1977. So can we make #75 (threequarter of a century)? I believe we can, if our Board and members support our history. We have a willing Board. All we need is more members willing to help by getting involved. What about you? We're asking you, our members, to support your NSDCA by simply doing what you enjoy, square dancing and camping with your friends.

The 75th is only 8 years away. As this will be the last year on the Board for Dolly and I, we hope to see the NSDCA not just continue, but thrive. The 75th will be held about a month before my 90th birthday, if I make it until then. I couldn't wish for a better present than to attend the 75th NSDCA Camporee. See you in 2033!

Stay well, keep your squares tight, and enjoy life.

Dolly and John

NSDCA Charities Supported by the 67th Camporee



Warrian Yal Se Rosylid Scylkation Store Hose Street Hol Bill Dees

\$150.00 was awarded to the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Proceeds from all 50/50 + your donations were matched by the NSDCA to award \$650.00 to Shriners Childrens Hospitals...

Teddy Bears for Cops

(A program that provides teddy bears for children in tramatic situations). The NSDCA matched your donations; \$456.00 was awarded to Shreveport GingerBread House & Providence House



Roy Huddleston & Priscilla Newton



Ahoo, we're going to Texas! Please come and join us. How many of you have ever been at a real dude ranch? Coushatte is not really a dude ranch, but there are plenty of places close by to go horseback riding and it will be our first time going to Texas for a Camporee. Be sure and get your reservations and signup as soon as possible.

We have been visiting some clubs in Georgia and Alabama, trying to get information to square dancers who like to camp out. We're also trying to talk with the 000 members, the ones at-large, and see if we can't get some camp outs with the clubs close to them.

We hope everybody enjoyed our 2025 International Camporee; if so, let the members of your brick-and-mortar clubs know how much fun the Camporee was. We enjoyed the games, potluck dinners, the camaraderie and square dancing. In honoring our military, six veterans were honored with Quilts of Valor at the Camporee.

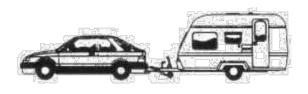
After our Camporee we stayed at the campground for the Nationals and had the privilege of hosting potluck dinners and after-hour square dances for non-member square dancers to dance and mingle with us. We got some of the campers to join the National Squared Dance Campers Association (NSDCA). How many of you saw the guy (Roy) walking around with the NSDCA feather flag?

We are pleased to announce that any new members will get a \$50 discount for the Camporee if they sign up for the Camporee in Texas for 2026.

If anybody has any questions or suggestions please give us a call, e-mail or text us at rhvpnsdca@gmail.com or 205-293-2607.

See you in a square.

Happy Trails from *Priscilla and Roy*





Tricia & Neal Chartier



A friendly reminder: Renewals & Officer Elections are due as you're sending in your renewals and officer election paperwork. Yes, they are due—please don't wait until the end of the year!

To save on paper and printing, remember: all of our forms are now fillable online! A big shoutout to Susan Wolford for making that happen! Here's how to make it easy:

- 1) Fill out the forms online.
- 2) Save them to your computer.
- 3) Email them to me as attachments.
- 4) Then just mail me a check. (And if you're Susan, you'd just have the bank cut and mail the check—super efficient!)

Getting your forms in early is a huge help to Kathy so she can prep everything for her mailings. Another friendly FYI: Renewals are due by the end of the year!

Looking Ahead: 2026 Camporee Plans

As you plan for next year, we hope you'll consider attending the Camporee at Coushatte Recreation Ranch in Bellville, TX. Everyone had such a great time at this year's Camporee in Shreveport!

I was especially thrilled with our potlucks—yes, we had 10 of them between the Camporee and the Nationals! It was exciting to have folks attending the National Convention join in. We even picked up six new members at Nationals—we were thrilled!

Neal and I had a good laugh too—some of the NSDCA campers from Wisconsin avoided Shreveport, thinking it would be too hot. It turned out it was hotter in Milwaukee that week than in Shreveport!

Tricia & Neal Chartier







Susan & Don Wolford



We had a wonderful time at the 67th International Camporee in Shreveport, Louisiana. We renewed old friendships and made new ones, both on and off the dance floor. The weather was warm but the facility was cool. The facility worked well for crafts, potlucks, games and dancing. Thank you to all the dancers/behind the scene workers (plus those who jumped in when needed) who managed the parking, the crafting, and made sure the hall was arranged for the next event. They all made the Camporee a success. Thank you to all those who volunteered to lead the dancing fun. We even had three new members who are callers! The crafts were fun and included decoupaging shells to hold trinkets, painting a tote bag and making a beaded bracelet with alligator dangles. The Shreveport Fairgrounds personnel was great and worked very quickly when asked to do anything. We enjoyed the potlucks every night, even through the National Square Dance weekend. Many campers participated in the game activities. We had several first-timers plus we added some new members because they had so much fun. The fellowship was wonderful and we missed those of you who were unable to attend.

NSDCA likes to give back to the community where we hold our Camporees. This year we held a drive for 'Teddy Bears for Cops.' Many bears were placed in the "bear" playpen that was provided. In addition to the teddy bears donated, NSDCA matched the money that was donated by our campers and a check was written for the 'Teddy Bears for Cops' in the amount of \$456. The Shriners Children's Hospital has been a popular means for giving back to the community. Once again, NSDCA matched the money donations given from the dancers for the Shriners Children's Hospital for a total of \$650. Shreveport has a Shriners Children's Hospital, and they were very thankful for the donation y'all made. We weren't done yet! We had a presentation of Quilts of Valor made to six of our NSDCA members who gave their time so that we can have our freedom. The recipients were: (in alphabetical order) Bill Dees (#153); Stuart Hall (#153); Steve House (#193); Roy Huddleston (#152); Bob Rosenthal (#128) and Zack Zeck (#153). Quilts of Valor organizations from Alabama, Florida and Louisiana provided these handmade quilts to be given to these service men. To

(Trea\$urer' continued on page 61)



Kathy Nickel Membership Secretary



i, everyone. Summer is half over already. We have had a GREAT time Camping and Dancing this summer already. We attended the 2025 International Camporee in Shreveport, LA in June and then we stayed on and participated in the National Square Dance Convention the following week. It was nice to meet some of you and put a face to a name. The Camporee was a good time had by all. We had a nice airconditioned hall for our activities and we were close to Shreveport so we could do some touring. We did Games, Crafts, Woodworking, Dance Workshops, Potlucks and of course Dancing in the evening. We are already looking forward to next year in Texas. Be sure to get your reservation in early and come and join us. A **Big Thank You** to the Board for hosting the Camporee.

I am now ready to accept your 2026 Membership dues. Be sure to let everyone know at your campouts. The price is the same for existing members. Check out our website at https://www.nsdca.org for the **Special for New Members**. This is a great marketing tool for you to help get new members.

Please send in your Winter residence changes for 2025-2026. As soon as you know your schedule; you can send it and I will make sure it is ready and you continue to get your *TIMES* newsletter. I am dating all changes, so as long as you include your departure/arrival date I can deliver where you are located.

Also, we look forward to seeing highlights of your Chapter campouts and campout activities in the *TIMES* newsletter. It is always nice to see what other Chapters are doing at their campouts. Make a special effort to get them in, so everyone can see what is being done at your campouts.

Now we are off to Northern Wisconsin and camping and relaxing at Peninsula State Park with our family for two weeks. Then we come back and participate in our State Square and Round Dance Convention in Oshkosh, WI, which will have occurred by the time you read this.

Happy Camping, and Dancing!

Kathy Nickel, Membership Secretary

State & Area Representatives' Reports

Illinois State Representative

Greetings from Illinois - Land of Lincoln. Where, oh where, did the summer go? School is back in session and the camping season in this state is drawing to a close. But before we get any further commenting about the season, here is review of the annual Illinois State Camporee, hosted by Illinois Chapter 014, Blackhawk Cross Trailers. It was held June 6-8 at Winnebago County Fairgrounds, Pecatonica, Illinois.

As it seems like with everything else, attendance was low, but nearly all Illinois chapters were represented, as well as some friends from our 'Neighbors to the North' (WI). Included among those in attendance were several first-timers. With newbies there is the hope of more first-timers the next time around. Of course there was dancing, games, crafts and food-always enjoyed by all, plus the annual meeting and election of members of the Board of Directors. Speaking of the election, congratulations to Ed & Marge Nightingale (075) on their return to the Board, and to Bob & Cinda Asp (014) on their reelection to a 2nd term. Outgoing BOD member Cherie Arch (014) was thanked for her six years (2 terms) of serving as secretary.

Winners for the games were presented with 1st, 2nd & 3rd place medals: Corn Hole: 1st Bob Asp (014), Dave Fisher (014); 2nd Wally Schapals (014), Barb Carney (014); 3rd Diane Wahl (196), Russ German (000). Washer Toss: 1st Kathi Sawyer (014), Ed Nightingale (075); 2nd Neal Chartier (002), Pam German (000); 3rd Tricia Chartier (002), Barb Car-

ney (014).

Bocce Ball: 1st Tricia Chartier (002), Joe Sawyer; 2nd Marian Hatfield (196), Bob Asp (014); 3rd Russ & Pam German (000).

Chapter 123 will hosts the 2026 Illinois State Camporee, June 4-6.

The 39th State of Illinois Square and Round Dance Convention was held in July at the O'Hare Sheraton Suites Rosemont, IL. Check the convention web site for future information: www.ilsdc.dance.

At the Board of Directors Meeting which followed the General Meeting, the main order of business was the election of Officers. Dan and Marian Hatfield (196) will retain their position as president, John and Liz Hand (123) will remain as vice president and Les and Shari Millard (066) will continue as treasurer. Having no candidate for secretary, a motion was passed making an addition to the standing rules which would allow Cherie Arch to retain her position for one year or until a replacement is found. The remaining Board of Director Members, Cinda and Bob Asp (014), Chet and Janet Bowman (123) and Ed and Margie Nightingale (075) are members-at-large.

Other NSDCA-related news from Illinois: Most of the State chapters continue to camp and square dance monthly. Chapters with fewer mem-







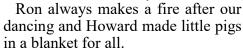
001 Garden State Square Dance Campers; New Jersey

It's the end of July in New Jersey, and the weather has been oppressive and in the 90s most days. Praying August is a little cooler for dancing and camping.

We started the camping season in May with #106 Square-Up Campers in Quarryville, PA. In June and July,

we camped at Appalachian RV Resort in Shartlesville, PA. Some of our Chapter members stayed in cabins or even in at a Quality Inn that is only 10 miles away from the campground. Our caller was Bob Engel (\rightarrow) and we had two to three squares dancing during the weekend. Bob workshopped Fan the Top and Peel the Top from different positions; it was challenging, but fun!

We had a delicious rib dinner at the campground for 24 of us. On Saturday afternoon, we played games in the hall. We played Mexican train, Spinner Dominos and Uno No Mercy!



In August we will go back to Appalachian with Mark Franks calling. For September we will join our



friends from Square-Up Campers (#106) at the Shady Oaks Family Campground in Newmanstown, PA.

See our schedule on our



website, https://gssdca.wixsite.com/gssdca or the NSDCA website.

We would really love it if other clubs could join us at our campouts. Our website contains registration forms you can download, print out and send in as well as a lot of other information.

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

A Big Yellow Rock to ALL!

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

002 Pine Tree; Wisconsin

Our camping season will soon officially come to an end—and as always, it's a little bittersweet. But then the fun of planning for next year begins! If you're in the area, we'd love to connect—The Pine Tree Chapter camps every month from May through October.

One highlight from this season was attending the Illinois State Camporee in June. We had an absolute blast! It was the first time Neal & I were able to play games at a Camporee, and we made the most of it—Neal won twice, and I won three times! It was such a fun experience, and we're looking forward to 2026's Illinois State Camporee.

Tricia Chartier; TriciaMooLady@gmail.com; 414-807-4083

014 Blackhawk Crosstrailers; Illinois

Our most recent campout was at the Rustic Barn Campground & RV Park in Kieler, WI at the end of July. We had six units and 12 people joining in. Some of us had to return to Rockford, IL on Friday so we could honor the life of one of our own, Larry Johnson, who passed away on July 18 (please see 'We Remember Our Friends' on page 27).



We went on an outing Saturday had to visit the Potosi Brewery for lunch, with stops at the Whispering Bluffs Winery, the attached ice

cream store and David Woodworks shop. It was a beautiful sunny day as we all headed

back to camp to get ready for our pot luck dinner night.

('Chats' continued on page 14)



Chats

('Chats' continued from page 13)

That was held in a lovely air-conditioned building at Rustic Barn. After dinner, it was time for Bob Asp to call a square of dancers. About a dozen people from around the campground came out to watch us dance. Kathi Sawyer was a guest caller (see photo below), so she could have some more practice in her new hobby. Our audience had a great time watching as Bob challenged her to "get them home!" We also got seven members of the audience up to try a few square dance moves. They loved it as their friends cheered them on! Each night we finished out the camping days



with bonfires and stories (\rightarrow) .

Our Chapter also hosted the Illinois State Camporee, which was held in Pecatonica, IL June 6-8. Seventeen RVs found a place at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds. Craft projects

were led by Sally Foley on Friday and Saturday. Hot dog and brat night brought us all together before dancing started to caller Bob Asp and cuer John Hand. Kathi Sawyer was a guest caller too.

Saturday was Game Day; challenges of Baggo Toss, Washer Ring Toss and Bocce Ball were enjoyed by two-person teams. Awards were passed out later for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners in each event. The NSDCA IL State Meeting was held; highlights included Bob and Cinda agreeing to another term on Board and Ed and Margie Nightingale also accepting a spot.

Saturday night was the traditional Pot Luck Dinner; lots of yummies enjoyed by everyone. After a quick clean up, the evening's dance started which included some non-camping visitors as well.

After the dance, Jack Huber got us set up and ready for Karaoke! We had a great group of campers who showed off their singing talents and entertained us with all styles of songs and techniques. For those who weren't singing, we enjoyed some ice cream treats.

On Sunday morning everyone was served donuts, coffee and fruit to enjoy before packing up and heading out.

Still to come: August at Big Rock Campground in Big Rock, IL; October 7-10 at Kamp Komfort in Carlock, IL (this will include a visit to Braffet Berry Farm, a community dance with Curt B and Bob A calling, and a dinner/play at Barn III, "Arsenic & Old Lace." Lastly, September 7 – 11, a Bob and Curt PLUS week at the Pride RV Resort in Waynesville, NC. Please come and dance with us if you are in the area.

Martha Schapals; wmpabilywm@gmail.com

031 Badger Rovers; Wisconsin

We had a couple of busy campouts in May and June. In May we had a very windy and cold campout! We ended up moving to our home, about five miles from



the campground, where we had our meatloaf cook-off contest and potluck. The garage

provided a warmer dance venue as well. We got back to our campground

and tried staying warm huddled around the campfire. Camping in May in Wisconsin at its finest!

Our June campout took us to Montello and Buffalo Lake. Here the weather was more cooperative, so we were able to perform our service project of repainting the wooden square dance couples (\rightarrow) . These will be used for our



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Chats

('Chats' continued from page 15)

state convention in August. We had a great turnout at Buffalo Lake, with a traditional bake sale that helps with our club funding. We ended Saturday night with a tasty potluck including our potato bar, dancing and campfire.



Our final campout in September will be a celebration of our 55th anniversary. Local clubs are invited to join us for dance workshops, crafts, games, potluck with brats and hot dogs furnished by Badger Rovers. Mark September 6 at Token Creek County Park on your calendar!!!

Sharon Schmidt and David Lust; 608-289-7582

044 Illiana Square Wheelers; Illinois/Indiana

Not many of us remain. There are not enough for a square and most of us don't (or more like physically can't) dance anymore anyway, plus our Chapter caller moved out of state a few years ago. But most still have and use our RV.

However, even without monthly campouts, we still have lots we can be thankful for. And although most are no longer members of NSDCA, we still enjoy periodic get togethers spending many hours eating, socializing, and playing various games. In fact, we've one coming up real soon. So that's about it for 044.

Wishing everyone a great relaxing super camping season.

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

045 Penn Dixie Square Campers; Pennsylvania

The Penn Dixie Camping Club again had the pleasure of joining #001 Garden State Square Dance Campers for a lovely weekend at the Appalachian RV resort in Shartlesville, PA in June. The caller was none other than our own Dave Black, who kept the dancing interesting with lively music and a fun rapport with the dancers. Fri-



day night activities started off with dinner together at a local restaurant, a Trail-In dance, followed by a campfire with snacks and chats. In spite of a rainy Saturday, we had a full weekend of activities consisting of a workshop on Saturday morning, games and crafts in the afternoon, a Saturday evening dance, church service on Sunday morning followed by a Trail-Out dance. They are a wonderful, fun, welcoming group and we look forward to being with them again!

In July, Penn Dixie Campers gathered at one of our favorite locations – Twin Bridge Campground in Chambersburg, PA. We were happy to reconnect with members we hadn't seen in several months. We danced in the barn to the calls of the delightful Dave Black on both Friday and Saturday night. Saturday at noon, the group shared a pot luck lunch followed by a business meeting and then a dip in the pool at the nearby home of Park and Kathy Bierbower. Thank you Park and Kathy. We had an enjoyable time dancing and catching up and look forward to dancing at Twin Bridge again in October.

Susan Walsh; swalsh57@yahoo.com

085 Mobile Squares; Colorado/Nebraska

Our camping season started off at McC Ranch. We visited the CSU Trial Gardens in Fort Collins, ate at Totally 80's Pizza & Museum, and we painted pinecones. In June we camped at John Martin Reservoir in Hasty. In July we camped at Casey's Hideaway in Elizabeth. In August we camped at Jackson Lake. September will take







Chats

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us to Scottsbluff, NE where we will attend the Legacy of the Plains Harvest Festival, listen to a guest speaker on Japanese history from WWII, and go the top of the Scottsbluff monument. For October we will be at the Fort Collins KOA. That will be it for our year. Wishing you all a good winter.

Laura Sullivan; harleyswife1@comcast.net; 970-371-7495

106 Square Up Campers; Pennsylvania

Our Chapter's recent campout had three squares of dancing on the floor! We were thrilled to welcome so many members and friends, from both local areas and out of town guests.

Everyone seemed so happy to move their feet to the beat of the music, keeping both body and mind active. Combining all the activities with renewed friendships, it just doesn't get any better! Of course, we cannot forget good food and snacks; we probably have the best cooks in the tri-state area. Why not join the Square Ups some weekend and join in the fun?

Kathy Engel; kathye@kuhncom.net

116 Camping Squares; Kansas

We had fun at the Kansas State Convention in Wichita in early June followed by the NSDCA and National SD Conventions from mid to late June. Our July campout was at Scott City, KS for their city festival and a tour of Little Jerusalem State Park. It was a good time.

For August we plan on camping at Yoder, KS for their Heritage Days Festival and parade. September 25-28 we will be at Fall River and attending the American Frontier Festival at the State Park. October 17-19 will be our last campout for the season (weather permitting) at Pomona Lake, Baldwin City, KS for the Maple Leaf Festival.

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

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

123 Swing n Travelers; Illinois

As many of you are having the hot and humid conditions we are right now, there were sure lots of complaints from the 22 attendees at our Memorial Campout in May about the chilly temperatures. As our next campout was in July, it was just the opposite with many moaning that the heat just doesn't want to let up. Even



though many were unhappy about the weather, we still had a decent amount of those who still camped, and we still find ourselves outside of our rigs.



In May, we had some of the same things in previous May campouts, but we did do an interesting game this time that nobody had an excuse not to participate in. Campground Bingo was very interesting; instead of the B-I-N-G-O column headings, the categories were Food (restaurants), Games, Chapter 123 members, Square Dance calls, and Campgrounds, or FGMCC. There was also more than one gift, so we played FGMCC many times with ways to get a 'bingo' more than the normal Bingo. When we got 'bingo' we could steal someone else's gift or take one off the table. Then, the person who lost their gift would have to take one from the table or steal someone else's gift. We did that on Sunday after-

noon, and ended up having our homemade ice cream instead of supper after the game. One of the choices of ice cream was lavender ice cream, which I felt was good. Our craft was a



('Chats' continued on page 20)



Chats

('Chats' continued from page 19)

lavender bag to use to put on your eyes, when you go to bed, to help you sleep.

July's game was bocce ball, where we watched others at the campground play one morning on a regular bocce ball court. As the court was next to our pavilion, we got out our game of bocce ball and devised our own game. What fun everyone had seeing where our ball would end up. I finally figured it out at the end of the game, but that didn't stop me from trying anyway. For the most part it was a quiet couple of days where we did lots of relaxing and visiting. Since it was 'Christmas in July' that weekend, it was very interesting with all the Christmas items out and fun activities for all. The ones who stayed on Saturday night were able to join the Western show the campground has on the weekends.

Our Chapter had only three couples attending June's Illinois State camporee. There were 18 rigs in attendance, and from what I heard, they all had a good time. Only one member from Swing n Travelers was able to make it to Nationals this year, so I hope more can attend next year.

Our next campout is at Friends Creek in Argenta, IL in August which will be reported on in the Winter issue of the *TIMES*. I'm looking forward in seeing everyone again and see what is on the agenda for us. Hopefully, we will have a cooler few days.

Janet Bowman; cabjcb2@gmail.com

128 Square Wheels; Florida

Greetings from sunny (meaning scorching) Florida. If it weren't for Square Dancing and Aqua Aerobics class, it is possible that I would not even leave the air-conditioned comfort of my house. Speaking of air conditioning, as someone who pays the utility bill, I generally keep my thermostat at 76-77 degrees. Well, when I met my three grown children for a week at the beach, they turned the

AC down to 62-64 degrees; try wearing a damp bathing suit in that!

We are truly lucky in Florida to have some truly talented callers, and to have new callers and cuers coming up through the ranks. Square Wheels, my home club, has the talented Bill Chesnut calling and creative and talented Susan Snider cueing for us 10 months of the year (skipping June and July for the reasons above). Mark Fetzer and Bill Cassidy back up Bill Chesnut in calling, and at one campout recently we actually had 6 squares on the floor - obviously this is not typical any more, but boy do we love it when it happens. You can find our schedule for the remainder of 2025 in the 'Campouts' section of this issue, and as always, online at

the NSDCA website.

Laura Ramsey, Secretary; lauraramseyslp@gmail.com

152 Campers & Dancers; Alabama

Hello camper dancers. I hope everybody had a good time at the NSDCA International Camporee and at the Nationals in June. With the Camporee and the Nationals, our Chapter did not have campouts in June and July. We had the Wilsons, Worrells and Roy and Priscilla representing Chapter 152 at the Camporee in Shreveport, LA.



As of this writing, our next camp out is scheduled for late August at River Rocks Landing in Gadsden, AL, arranged by our Wagonmasters Cozads and Scharnhorsts. Thursday night we will either dance in Fultondale or we will go to Gadsden and dance with the Gadsden Twirlers. On Friday we plan to explore on our own or in groups, then we'll have supper out at Clover on Court (formerly Harp and Clover), and then we'll have a dance at the clubhouse. Kevin Cozad will be calling. Saturday morning we plan to go ride the train through Noccalula Falls Park, with no activity scheduled for the afternoon. Supper that night will be at the clubhouse, and once again the dance will be with Kevin calling.

clubhouse, and once again the dance will be with Kevin calling.

September the 4th through the 7th we will be going to Yonah Mountain campground in Helen, GA. The Wagonmasters will be Janice Salsgiver, John Ruthruff and the Worrells. Friday night we will be going to Dahlonega, GA to dance with Gold Country and we will also be eating at Bourbon Street Grill. Saturday we will be going to Gainesville, GA to dance with the Lake Shore Club. Please contact the Worrells (706-372-6655) or Janice Salsgiver (770-328-5523) if you would like to join us.

Our October and November Campouts are going to be at Roaring Pines RV Park in Somerville, AL. Contact Kevin Cozad at 205-928-2618 for further information. See other details either on the NSDCA website or in the 'campouts' section of this issue.

Come dance with us at one the upcoming campouts.

Priscilla Newton; priscilla 1617@att.net; 205-382-0210

153 Strawberry Travelers; Florida

Howdy everybody! Hope the sizzling part of summer is behind us and some cooler relief is in sight (or is already being FELT!) by the reading of this *TIMES* Chat in September. Summer in Florida is just too hot for us tender, delicate Strawberries, not that we are 'pick'-y, but to avoid the possibility of turning into 'WINE'-rs, we do not camp during the heat of summer. Okay, done now with the

camp during the heat of summer. Okay, done now with the 'fruity' wordplay and on with the CHAT ...

Some of our club members traveled to Louisiana to attend the 67th International NSDCA Camporee. I heard from our caller, Mike Gormley,



Chats

('Chats' continued from page 21)

they had a HOT time out yonder in the Bayou too! He also reported that Linda Michaels (who recently joined 153) led a carving or whittling craft that appealed to the men. Mike told me that there was a lesson taught explaining the difference between "whittling" and/or "carving" and, to the best of his recollection (and my 'Googling' - I hope I get this right!) – "all carving begins with whittling but not all whittling ends up a carving". At any rate, congrats Linda; the Alligator Tie Slides were a 'swamping' success! Also, Carolyn Dees (a long-time member of 153) led a craft too: a decoupaged Sea Shell Jewelry Holder. Hey, you guys should have participated in that craft too, it could've held those Tie Slides!

The Quilts of Valor presentation is such an honorable event and what an honor it was to have six Veterans presented with their own Quilt of Valor at our 67th NSDCA Camporee! Four of the six recipient Veterans were from Florida, and three of those four are members of Chapter 153. How proud we are of ALL our Veterans and congratulations especially to our own: Bill Dees (far right), Stuart Hall (second from right), and Zack Zeck (far left)! Thank you for your service to our Country!



A BIG THANK YOU to ALL of you who participated in the NSDCA 67th International Camporee and to those who led, orchestrated, organized, decorated, chaired, directed, set up, took down, lent a hand and handed out, ... YOU made a difference and an impact and you are appreciated!

Our next Strawberry Travelers Club Camp will be at Southern Palms

RV Park in Eustis, Florida 17-18, 2025. October Many of us will be remainin our RVsites ing throughout the following week as we eagerly await the 49th FANSDC 'Wild Jungle Safari' Camporee October, 23, 24 & 25, 2025. You can read all about it and register if you already haven't fansdc.net. You can also



find more about our club and the other Florida camping clubs and their schedules on that website as well as the NSDCA website. See you there in a square!

Trucy Rogers; trucy.rogers56@gmail.com

C-175 Riverside Gypsy Squares; Ontario, Canada

Our 2025 camping season has begun. We met at the end of May, and although the weather was not the best, we were able to dance and also had some time to visit with each other to catch up on our Winter activities. I hear that people enjoyed the Saturday morning brunch get together that was put on by the May Committee.



The June weekend was nicer weather and being June, we danced, visited and enjoyed strawberry shortcake for dessert on Saturday night.



Although my husband and I missed July's weekend, it sounded like an active one. Some of the Gypsies went for a walk in the morning, followed by many participating in games organized by the Slaters (members of the July Committee). Following the dance and monthly meeting Saturday afternoon there was a hamburger and sausage BBQ. I wonder if Gypsy Joe (—) managed to have a sausage without anyone noticing it.

We are already more than halfway through our dancing season. Hard to believe. We will get together again in August and September, and we hope for sunshine and warm weekends for those times.

Hoping that everyone is enjoying a summer of camping and dancing opportunities.

Mary Anne Reinhard; 613-838-5781

('Chats' continued on page 24)

181 MontShire Campin' Squares; Vermont/New Hampshire

We had a great time at our two summer campouts. June was a rainy weekend but we didn't care as we danced in the pavilion to caller Don Bachelder and cuer Mary Lou Gagliardi. We are looking forward to June, 2026 and another wonderful weekend with Don and Mary Lou. Our second weekend in 2025 was also at Horseshoe Acres Campground in Andover, VT. This weekend was a little cooler than the previous summer weeks. We had an enjoyable weekend with caller Peter Tobin and cuer Barbara Connelly. Without the rain, we were able to enjoy several outdoor games of corn hole. Peter and Barbara are also scheduled for our July, 2026 weekend. Check out our schedule on the NSDCA website. We welcome all campers and walk-ins for the evening dances. Vermont is usually cooler than most of the US, so come and enjoy camping with us on our weekends.

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

193 Florida RoadRunner Squares; Florida

Hello, Friends!

I hope you have all enjoyed a great summer. As fast as your summer went by, put on your seatbelts, because Christmas is just around the corner now. Well, that might be a little extreme, but sometimes it sure feels like that, doesn't it?



We finished off our 2024/25 camping season with a May campout in Winter Haven at Lake Bonnet RV Resort. What a great place, with sites easy to get into, located across from the clubhouse and very reasonably priced. The clubhouse was excellent, we played some card games, worked on a great craft (thanks to new members Earl & Bonnie Lloyd, now our official club Craft Lady) and we all danced a little, too. As you can see in the middle picture above, John (your NSDCA president) was on the floor attempting to dance, however his balance was not quite good enough yet, so he didn't last long. We always love May campouts, as most of the northern snowbirds have gone home and we have much of the campground, well - at least the pool - to ourselves. On the other hand, many of them are square dancers that help fill our clubs during that time and we really miss you all when you leave.

Several of us headed out to Louisiana for the 67th Camporee soon after

that. I first discovered that there are no frogs in Shreveport, like they were in Rayne (2010 & 2021) but 'WOW' there were lots of daiquiris! Having never seen a Daiquiri Express (\rightarrow) , I'll share with you what it looks like. Imagine a Slushy Bar on steroids, with a menu that would put Baskins Rob-



bins 31 Ice Cream flavors to shame. Yes, Shreveport is well-known for those fabulous daiquiri shops, even drive-throughs. Hope you didn't miss out on one of those during your visit to Louisiana and I hope all of you who attended had a super good time. I personally love getting to see friends from previous Camporees I've attended, as well as meeting all the new folks that are there. We had quite a few first-timers this year and I hope that will continue. Although it was very challenging logistically to

get both the NSDC and the NSDCA campers at the same campground for the duration of both events, it sure made for great after-parties at the campground! Be sure not to miss out on our next Camporee on a Texas Ranch. What fun that is going to be!!

Our Chapter's first campout of the 2025/26



season kicks off at Wekiva Falls RV Resort in Sorrento, Florida on Sept 11th through the 14th. It is one of my favorite places because they are so good to us. On Friday they cook dinner for us, and on Saturday they make our breakfast and do all the clean-up too. Now if you are in this area when you get this *TIMES* issue, be sure to give us a call and come on over to camp and dance with us.

Moving ahead, I don't have to tell you how quickly October and Halloween come either, as you have likely seen Halloween supplies in every store for the past three months, maybe even four. This year October is full of square dancing events. On October 9th our club is planning an Oktoberfest Dance with two great callers: Shufflin Squares' Dave Muller and our own very talented John Sweeney, along with our equally talented club cuer, Chuck Ryall. The party begins at 6:30 PM with a full 30 minutes of round dancing. I guarantee these three guys and both clubs will treat (or trick) you into a great time. This dance is also a Trail-In for our weekend campout at nearby Hammondell Campsites, October 9th through the 12th. We would love for you to plan to be there for the entire

(Continued on page 26)

weekend.

Then the always-fabulous Florida State Camporee will be held in Eustis, Florida on October 23, 24 & 25, with a 'Wild Jungle Safari' theme. It has to be the best bargain in camping, with a cost of just \$50 for three full days of fun and dancing; it even includes a catered dinner and site fees under \$40/night. It is a "DON'T MISS EVENT!"

If you are in Florida anytime, be sure to check online for our schedule and consider spending your weekend with us. Our schedule is always on the NSDCA.org website and at the following site links: www.nsdca.org or our 193 website www.whirlaways.org/rr_193_index.html; Check out our Campout listings and come join us.

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

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

196Wabash Valley Wheel-a-Rounds; Indiana/Illinois/Ohio GREETINGS FROM THE WVWA!

We are thrilled that the camping season is upon us. We were unable to get together in April, but that made our May campout at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky even more enjoyable. Our arrival day was Tuesday, May 13. We usually start our campout with a breakfast potluck for our evening meal, as many breakfast foods are

quick to make. Lois Whitehead planned a craft to combine the Kentucky Derby and the Indy 500; we made cars from water bottles and glued pictures of horses on the tops. We enjoyed a campfire after the craft.

On Wednesday we explored many activities in the park. We saw six breeds of horses ridden by ladies in beautiful costumes while a narrator gave an interesting history of each breed. There were many demonstrations, displays, and lectures to attend. The landscaping was gorgeous. Another highlight was seeing a life-size, bronze statue of Secretariat and



his jockey at the center of a nearby roundabout (←). Others in our group went on a selfpropelled rail trolley ride to view the scenic bluegrass area. That evening we enjoyed another potluck. Before the campfire, we raced our crafts made the previous night. After several heats, the winner was Coffee Streak, made and raced by Marian Hatfield.

Thursday it poured down rain.

We ate at a local barbecue restaurant and attended a square dance at the Wheeler Dealer square dance club in Lexington. They were delighted to have us come.

Our June campout took place in Pecatonica, Illinois, where we attended the Illinois State Camporee, hosted by #014 Blackhawk Crosstrailers.



We enjoyed lots of dancing, with Bob Asp calling and John Hand cueing.

Sally Foley provided two afternoons of fun crafts. The food was great

all three nights. The final evening consisted of dancing, door prizes, and karaoke.

Marian Hatfield; danandmarian@hotmail.com

We Remember Our Friends

Larry Johnson (Blackhawk Crosstrailers, 014)

Lawrence "Larry" D. Johnson, 86, passed away peacefully at home on July 18, 2025. He was born February 24, 1939.

Larry graduated from Rockford East High School in 1959 and married his beloved wife, Darlene Cevene. He worked as an engineer at National Lock's Rockford Airport plant for over 30 years.

An avid aviation enthusiast, Larry was a private pilot for more than 50 years and was a mem-



ber of the Blackhawk Flying Club. He built two homes, could fix anything, and enjoyed camping with Darlene. He was a member of the Thunderbird Squares and Blackhawk Crosstrailers Square Dance clubs for over 20 years. He loved going to car shows—especially showing his 1964 Thunderbird.

Larry is survived by his wife Darlene, daughters, grandchildren, great -grandchildren, a brother, and many nieces and nephews.

Submitted by Martha Schapals

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



and the FUN continues.

There were only 16 entries this time (including one non-member online reader) providing thoughts on the location of our 2025 mascot who has been dubbed Allie Gator, our lost aquatic reptile. Of those entries, there were 13 that had the correct location: on the

'Friendship set to Music' treble clef staff, swinging along with the dancers on page 36 of the Summer issue. The winning 'invest-i-gator' for the Summer issue contest is Ruthann Sanders of Illiana Square Wheelers (#044, IL/IN). Congratulations, Ruthann, I believe you are another first-time winner from that Chapter; your 2026 NSDCA membership fee will be waived. (Remember to have the certificate you received in the email sent to our NSDCA Treasurer when you renew in December.)

Some of the comments received about our lost gator are as follows: From Mike Huddleson #116 (KS), "I think Allie is learning to sing so she can become a caller." Mary Bruun #123 (IL) wondered, "Maybe she is looking for the Watermelon Crawl music so she can dance with everyone." Perennial punster Jim Sebesta #045 (PA) noted, "Allie told me the wave will carry her all the way to Shreveport in a snap. She then told me an alligator joke: "Why did the alligator become a musician? She knew her scales well."

Debbie Cassidy #128 (FL) indicated, "The alligator is no longer lost. She was discovered at the bottom center of page 36 dancing to music with her square dance friends." Janet Bowman #123 (IL) said, "The Lost Gator is not only making friends with those on the scale, but is dancing to the music. Never know where she will travel to next, but I am sure she will bring her friends to the NSDCA Camporee in Louisiana to dance with other square dancers."

Please remember, the contest for the Chapter with the most submissions is not won solely on the number of entries, for a large, motivated Chapter would easily swamp the numbers from a smaller Chapter. The year-end tally (based on the Summer through Spring issues, ending just before the International Camporee) is also based on the weighted percentage of total members of that Chapter (as membership can fluctuate over the two calendar years the information is taken from). So, if you are a member of one of our smaller Chapters, do not lose hope, for with sufficient entries—your Chapter could win! But, you'll not have that opportunity if you don't make an entry. We have more than 600 members and only a couple of percent make a submission, typically from the same Chapters. You can't win if you don't enter. And please remember, in order to win you must be a member in good standing (current year dues are

paid; thus the non-member who submitted is not eligible.)

I've stated this before, and I'll state it many times in the future: This is *your* newsletter! Your contributions make it informative, educational and most of all, entertaining. Let me hear from you on the contest as well as other requests that have been made in the past (e.g., caller or cuer biographies, best practices, handy hints, etc.).

Our 2026 International Camporee is being held in Texas, thus our mascot is going to be a (as yet to be named) bull. I'm certain you noticed a bull in the list of contest submissions immediately below by the members of Chapter 123 that made contest submissions. Let's get this bull back on track—headed to Bellville—before it gets too mad and rushes at a few of our square dance campers.

Send your answer to the location of our lost bull (or article/idea contribution) once again only via email to NSDCAtimes@gmail.com (to arrive no later than October 31, 2025). Please do not send by US Mail for this issue's contest. Remember, I will confirm receipt of your email within two days; if you don't hear back from me, please double check the address where you sent your submission and resubmit it.

For contest entries, please provide the page number *and* where on the page our lost bull is located. Simply providing something like "on the bottom of page 2" is insufficient; however, if you write something clever like the contributors listed earlier did, it gives a good indication you have properly located our lost bull, and you may get your answer published!

('Contest' continued on page 31)

Chapter name	chapter # Entrant		
Member-at-Large	000	Bill Chase	
Illiana Square Wheelers (IL/IN)	044	Ruthann Sanders	
Penn-Dixie Square Campers (PA)	045	Jim Sebesta	
Dakota Wheelers (SD)	061	Richard Wooten	
Camping Squares of Kansas (KS)	116	Mike Huddleson	
		Marty & Frank Golden	
Swing 'N' Travelers (IL)	123	Jim & Sharon Waller	
Note: This is <u>NOT</u>		John & Carol Scher	
the lost bull, but the wayward one		Dave & Mary Bruun	
looks similar to this one. Notice		Herb & Pat Edwards	
there are no riders on this bull.	758	Chet & Janet Bowman	
on this buil.		Norma Schertz	
Square Wheels (FL)	128	Debbie & Bill Cassidy	
Strawberry Travelers (FL)	153	Susan & Don Wolford	
Florida RoadRunners (FL)	193	Tom & Rita Biehn	
On-Line Reader (FL)	N/A	Penny Green	

2024 Annual Report and 2025 General Membership Meeting Summary

The 2024 Annual Report contents feature comments by the National Board of Directors and some Staff Members. Most comments are general in nature and provide realistic (sometimes considered as negative) comments and positive and uplifting comments for the future. Most articles included an appeal for more member participation and input to help the Board plan for future Camporees. For details and specifics, please refer to the full FY 2024 NSDCA Annual Report on the NSDCA website at www.NSDCA.org.

The published financial report and summary on pages 18 and 19 of the Annual Report indicate that year after year, the NSDCA has been fairly constant in its available cash assets, but has seen a downturn in membership numbers and Chapter retention as indicated by the 10-year membership trends on Page 18 of the Annual Report. In addition to the membership trends, it was reported that the last remaining Michigan Chapter closed, and with it, the Michigan State Association closed as well.

The 2024 Annual General Membership Meeting failed to nominate and elect a replacement for resigning Chuck and Ruth Osborn from their Vice President position. At the September 2024 Board Meeting, the Board appointed Roy Huddleston and Priscilla Newton to fill the remainder of the 2024 through 2028 Board vacancy. Also at the 2025 General Membership Meeting, Don and Susan Wolford, having stated their intent to continue as Board members for a second four-year term, were affirmed by unanimous acclaim. Prior to their acceptance, the full mem-



bership in attendance was polled three times for any nominations from the floor. None were received. Here (photo on the previous page) is your continuing Board of Directors, left to right: Tricia & Neal Chartier, Secretary; Priscilla Newton & Roy Huddleston, Vice President; Dolly & John Ide, President; Susan & Don Wolford, Treasurer.

Other meeting activities included a short memorial time for members and friends we have lost since last summer. They included:

Ken Roberts, 010, Pioneer

Lawrence Sanders, 044, Illiana Square Wheelers

Frances Smith, 066, Trader-by Travelers

Ron Reardon, 082, Hitch-n-Go

Sue Mayer, 123, Swing-n-Travelers

Ivan Hadsall, 128, Square Wheels

Hank Sweetman, 152, Campers & Dancers

Sam Dunn, 193, Florida RoadRunners

Kathy Nickel, our Membership Chair, thanked everyone for keeping her apprised of address changes (whether due to relocation or a second home) to save the expense of returned mail. Ken Shacter encouraged everyone to continue sending their campout details and Chapter Chats so we can all share in the fun of camping and dancing. Lastly, to save printing and expense, the NSDCA Bylaws, which have not changed in approximately 10 years, were not included in the Report. The Bylaws are available on our website or from any Board Member.

I'm sure I missed a lot, so if you have any specific questions or comments, get in touch with me and I'll try to fill in any details.

John Ide

('Representative' continued from page 11)

bers join with other chapters and participate as often as possible. Unfortunately camping season is nearly over in Illinois. Our RVs will soon be winterized or plans for a winter in a warmer climate will be in the works. In the meantime, my wish for you is to continue to camp and dance. While doing so, keep the wheels rolling down the road and those feet keeping time to the music.

Ruthann Sanders, RSRN4@aol.com 708-650-61224

('Contest' continued from page 29)

<u>Please note</u> any comments provided with your submission implies you are giving your permission to publish the comment. Lastly, as always, be sure to include your Chapter's number and name when you communicate with any Association staff member or Board member.

Thank you!

How to Start An NSDCA Chapter When ...

So you love square dancing, camping, and campfires, and you would like start a NSDCA Chapter but ...

- You're the only NSDCA member in your state, and ...
- The closest other members or Chapters are 200 miles away, and
- You don't know any other square dancers with campers.

It may sound like an impossible challenge, but it really isn't. There are, however, some prerequisite conditions that are important for you to understand, such as ...

- You're willing to start the process, and put in the effort, and ...
- You love square dancing and camping or RVing, ...
- You have an RV or a camper, ...
- You belong to a reasonably local B-n-M (brick-n-mortar) square dance club, ...
- There are some campgrounds or RV parks in your area, ...
- The campground/park has either a clubhouse or other facility for a square dance, ...
- You are a caller, know a caller who's willing to help, or ...
- Your B-n-M club dances or meets on Friday or Saturday nights.

Next comes the planning part which consists of ...

- Pick a weekend at your RV park or campground of choice ...
- At least 4 to 6 weeks out and check for available campsites.
- Now do some planning. The intent is for you to camp for a weekend and invite some of your square dance friends out for a campfire, wienie roast, relaxing and enjoyable social time on Friday evening or Saturday. If a caller is available, a few tips could be worked into the time but keep it simple and fun. Remember that what keeps people in square dance camping clubs is the fun, relaxing social time with friends, NOT THE DANCING. It's important that you enjoy the weekend as well.

Now it's time for the promotion, advertising, or just plain talking it up. Tell your camping and non-camping square dance friends that ...

- Begin by visiting as many square dance clubs in your area and ...
- Take an opportunity to share your plans with other clubs as well as your own.
- Invite them for a weekend, an afternoon or evening for a social event.
- If you are the only camper in your local B-n-M club with a camper, go ahead and make a reservation for yourself.
- Invite non-square-dancing friends as well. They enjoy camping without dancing, and when they see how much fun the dancing adds to the time, they may want to learn.

• The important thing for the first weekend is for your guests to have fun and enjoy themselves.

Next, plan a second weekend and a third, and ... so on.

- Add to the activity to include campers, non-campers, square dancers and non-square dancers.
- As your group grows, even though growth may be slow, you and your friends will have more fun, and some of them will want to join in the dancing, some may just come for fun, some may want to get into camping AND dancing.

Then, keep building until ... you have a Chapter.

Been there, done that!

NSDCA Members Karin & Dick Callander (#128) were taking a little vacation earlier this year, and Karin (who is NSDCA Communications Chair) provided the following travelogue:

Dick and I are taking a month "off," and traveling this summer. We packed up the camper and the puppy and left Florida, bound for Victoria, Texas, visited family and then hit the Gulf Coast of Texas, spending a week in Rockport. While we were there, we had the opportunity to dance with the Ocean Waves club, with some of the very folks that had welcomed us onto their floor waaaaay back, somewhere in the 1990s, and got us reintroduced to square dancing. They remembered us, and we remembered them! We have danced with this club periodically over the years, and it's always a lot of fun. But, now, we are on our way to dance with the NSDCA Alabama Chapter 152 Campers & Dancers during their May campout. We are looking forward to meeting them and squaring up with a new caller and new friends. In the meantime, though, I wanted to share some of what we have found along the way. We built in a couple of extra days' relaxation, and booked a stay at Bay Hideaway RV Park in Bay St Louis, MS. This campground is one of the cleanest and prettiest parks we've ever stayed in. It's well treed, and most sites are at least partly shaded, but there's plenty of open air for TV satellites and Star-Link.

There are only about 50 sites, and about 20 of them are occupied by long-term renters, but you don't see the usual clutter and debris from residents. All the sites are wide and fully graveled, and most of the sites in the transient section are pull through. Each site has a table, there is a fully fenced and large off-leash dog park, a small fitness room, with a treadmill, recumbent bike and a weight set. There is plenty of grass to walk the puppy, and there are stars to see at night. There is a bank of washers and dryers available 24 hours a day, and the restrooms are the cleanest I've ever seen outside of Buc-ee's! There's a sparkling clear pool and a some playground structures for the kiddies. There's also a 9-basket disc

RIDIN' HIGH - HEADIN' WEST SQUARE DANCE 68th INTERNATIONAL NSDCA CAMPOREE



Coushatte Recreation Ranch 4029 Clay Ranch Ln., Bellville, Texas 77418 June 17, 18, 19, 2026: Camporee Events



Date: NSDCA Me	embership #	DANC	E INTERESTS ($$	Interests)
NON-Member - (Requires added	d \$20 Surcharge-See Below)	Square Dance	Round Dance	Line Dance
		Mainstream	Phase II	Lines
Information for PARKING by	LOCATION & RV NEEDS	Plus	Dl III	Contra
ARRIVAL 06//2026 DI	EPARTURE 06//2026	A-1/ A-2	Phase IV/ V	
STATE CHAPTER # _	HANDICAP	MS Workshop	Plus WS	A WS
ELECTRIC : 30 AMP 50) AMP	Youth/Teen ProgramSSD Wor		SSD Workshop
		SPORTS/GAMES	$(\sqrt{\text{Interests}})$	
		Corn Hole M F _	Washer Toss	M F
Adult Name #1 (Please Print)		Bocce Ball M F _	Other	
		Craft Interests M	. F Youth	_
Adult Name #2 (Please Print)		Other Are you a Veteran?	(Branch)	
Addit Name #2 (Trease Timt)		Are you a veteran: _	(Diancii)	
		Caller / Cuer Particip	ation ($$) (Du	e by April 1)
Mailing Address (Include Apt a	and/or Box number)	Square Dance		ound Dance
		Mainstream		Phase II
G: G: /B	0.7° /P + 1	Plus	_	Phase III
City State/Provin	ace & Zip/ Postal	A-1 A-2		Phase IV Phase V
		Youth/Teen Dang		Other
Phone Number (cell phone prefe	erredinclude area code)	Touth reen built		
	,	Caller Name		
		Availability (√) Tu	W Th F	7
Email address		G N		
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If you would like your ribbons sent with your confirmation, please include a self-addressed, stamped business (#10) envelope with your registration. Refunds are available with a written request.

Send check or money order payable in US Funds to "**68th NSDCA Camporee**" to: (June 1st – October 1st): Susan Wolford, 79 Dogwood Rd., Albertville AL 35950 (October 2nd – May 31st) Susan Wolford, 1435 Razorbill Ln., Punta Gorda FL 33983

For more info, contact Susan Wolford: (256) 673-0170; 68th.nsdca@gmail.com

NSDCA

68th International Camporee



Ridin' High & Headin' West

June 17, 18 & 19, 2026

for a Wild Western Square Dance Party

The Coushatte Recreation Ranch

4029 Clay Ranch Ln. Bellville, Texas 77418

Three Full Days of Camping and Dancin' Fun

(Three nights of camping included in the registration fee.)



"Squares, Rounds, & Lines + Games & Workshops"

Registration forms are online at...

NSDCA.ORG

2026 Camporee Chairmen:

George Ferguson (313) 454-1191 Sandy McIntire (734) 735-1342

2026 Camporee Registrar: Susan Wolford NSDCA, Inc. P.O. Box 241 Butler. WI 53007-9998



With the 75th NSDC being in Waco, Texas June 25, 26 s 27.

Make your plans now to enjoy our 'Wild West' Camporee on your way.

Bar-B-Que's 'Boot Stompin-Dancin' on a Texas Ranch

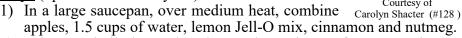
Yahoo!

No-Bake Apple Pie

<u>Ingredients</u> (optional denoted by '*'):

- 2 pounds of apples (approximately 4 apples), peeled, cored and thinly sliced
- 1 3/4 cups water (divided use)
- 3 ounce box lemon Jell-O
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- (*) 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 3 ounce 'Cook & Serve' vanilla pudding
- 9-inch graham cracker crust
- (*) 4-5 cinnamon graham crackers, for topping

Steps (optional denoted by '*'):



- 2) Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low. Simmer for 4 to 6 minutes, until the apples are tender.
- 3) In a separate container, mix the vanilla pudding mix and remaining 1/4 cup water, and then add to the apples in their pot.
- 4) Cook and stir for about 2 minutes, or until mixture is thickened (like syrup).
- 5) Remove from heat. Spoon filling into graham cracker crust.
- 6) Cover and refrigerate overnight. It will thicken and set as it cools in the fridge, so it's important you give it time to completely cool.
- 7) (*) Take 4 to 5 graham crackers squares and place in a Ziplock bag. Crush the crackers using a rolling pin or some other heavy object.
- 8) (*) Sprinkle the crushed graham crackers over the cooled pie.
- 9) Slice and serve. If you like, top with whipped cream or ice cream!

Nutritional information is provided below (based on using sugar-free Jell-O and no graham cracker topping).

Total fat (g)	5	Cholesterol (g)	0	Sugars (g)	27
Saturated fat (g)	3	Sodium (mg)	165	Protein (g)	2
Poly unsat. fat (g)	0	Potassium (mg)	144	Vitamin A	2%
Mono usat. fat (g)	0	Total carbs (g)	42	Calcium	0%
Trans fat (g)	0	Dietary fiber (g)	5	Iron	4%

Makes 8-12 servings. Above nutritional information is for 8 servings; each serving slice is ~220 calories.



('Callander' continued from page 33)

golf course, a covered pavilion with lights and power, tables and chairs, and roll-down screens for weather protection.

The campground is privately owned by Lea and her veteran husband, Randy, and they obviously care for and take pride in their customer service and the presentation and maintenance of their park.

The town of Waveland and nearby Bay St. Louis is where Katrina landed on August 29, 2005, so there are numerous references to the destruction wreaked and the resilience of the townsfolk. During our day in town, we were able to visit the historic L & N Train Depot which gave us a timeline of the history of the town and the major industries and weather events that have helped shape and influence the area. Inside the Depot is a Mardi Gras museum, with about 10 of the elaborate and ornate costumes worn by the local Krewe. Upstairs, you'll find the Alice Mosely Folk Art Museum, which is dedicated to a local artist who started painting at age 65, continuing on till her death at 94 in July of 2004. There is a short video of an interview she gave in 2003 just before her death, and her personality and humor really shines through. What an amazing and benevolent woman she was.

Of course, our exploration took us to the Shops at Century Hall, an artistic cooperative of 25 local artisans and vendors, selling everything from T-shirts emblazoned with Bay St. Louis, to soaps, to Cajun spices and salsas, to paintings and oyster shell artwork, to hand painted silk scarves, books and metal art. There are also plants and hand painted wooden signs. But most interesting of all, was the building in which these shops were housed. The Century Hall was built by, and for, the area Woodmen of the World. While we were inside we met with a local retiree who is busier than ever, working for the betterment of Bay St. Louis (including speaking to Congress); what a powerhouse she was! And when she recommended we go get a hamburger or shrimp taco at The Blind Tiger, we had to go see for ourselves. Oh.My.Gosh. She wasn't wrong!! And we're so glad we went. There is outside (pet-friendly!) or inside dining, and a varied and budget-friendly menu. There are no freezers in the establishment; everything is brought in fresh daily. And the view was spectacular! Fun-fact: Blind Tigers were speakeasy establishments that popped up in the Prohibition Era, so it's got a fun vibe to start with!

On the way back to our little Bay Hideaway campground, we had to stop at Schaeffer's, a little, ramshackle-looking service station and convenience store. Lea, our campground host, had suggested they had The Best Boudin Balls around. We didn't have a clue what a Boudin Ball was, much less what made up a good one, but we thought, well, she hasn't been wrong yet, so what have we got to lose. We had tried their fried chicken yesterday, also at Lea's suggestion, and, my oh my, she was right about that too...it was absolutely delicious. So, today, we got a couple of

Boudin Balls (they were sold out yesterday) and ate one as soon as we arrived back at the camper. Oh my! Once again, Lea was spot on. I don't know if these are, in fact, the best around, but they were certainly good enough for us, and we immediately went back out and ordered six more for the road! Yes, yes we did.

Oh, one other nearby attraction we didn't get to is the John C. Stennis Science Museum and Space Center. It's at the very next exit on I-10, and we passed it coming and going, but we just didn't have enough time to explore. It's also the Welcome Center/Rest Stop for entering Mississippi from the West. And, I almost forgot, there's also the Silver Slipper, a local casino, that offers a crab feast every night. I know, if you know me at all, you know we tried that out. But, alas, no we didn't. We just didn't have enough time here to see and do it all. Maybe on our way to Waco in 2026?? Anyone care to join us??

So, tomorrow morning, we'll pack up and leave this charming old city -by-the-sea, that has seen and weathered so very many storms, but seems to have come out more charming and friendly than would seem possible. We are headed to Foscue Creek COE park, and it'll be our first Corp of Engineer experience. No telling what we'll find. One night there, and then we are bound for the NSDCA Alabama Chapter 152 campout, up in Cullman, AL. We can't wait! Square dancing and geocaching have taken us many new places and we've met many new friends over the years. I just cannot, nor would I want to, imagine how dull our lives would have been without those two hobbies we enjoy so very much.

If y'all ever find yourself in the area of Bay St. Louis, Waveland, and in particular, Bay Hideaway RV Park and Campground, these are terrific places to stay and play a while. And be sure to book at least a couple of days there, so you'll have time to venture off the beaten path and see the sights.



Woodcarving Craft





NSDCA Caller Linda Michel introduced quite a few people to the woodcarving craft this year. They all had a great time making those tiny pieces of wood into alligators.



Riverside Gypsy Squares C175 Caller Info

We have a unique situation at the Riverside Gypsy Squares. Over the years that the Club has existed there have been multiple Callers during the dancing season. These would be a mix of hired Callers as well as Callers from within the Club. Gary Young was instrumental in the beginning of the Riverside Gypsy Squares.

Over our Chapter's 31-plus years, many people have contributed to helping the Gypsies enjoy our dancing and many have provided dancing leadership. A few of our longtime members have compiled a list of them: Doug Holmes, Geoff Clarke and Ron Gardner, as well as Harry Baggott, Harold Moore and Berry Chumley. Round Dance Leaders include Gerry & Jim Sawtell and Jean & Don Clingin, Jimmy & Shelley Lee, Jeff & Andrea Priest, Susan Connor, and Dorothy Tweed. Other leaders have included Wayne & Sharon Hall, Brian Crawford, Charlie McClure, Ray Boisenault, Joann Edwards, Bill Judge, Gary Young, John Charmin, and Wendy VenderMeulen. Roger Moreau, Frank Gogo, Winston Mount, Marcel Lemay, Claude Pelletier, Alf Morin and Doreen Donovan have also been mentioned.

Margaret Thomas and Marguerite Summers keep our feet moving with Line Dance Steps now. Bob Summers (who is also NSDCA Webmaster extraordinaire), Kim Hamilton and George Williams call our Squares. My apologies to anyone who has been overlooked and is not mentioned above.

Most of these people have camped with us over the years, some even in tents. I am told that there were times when the Callers were quite challenged to concentrate on a pattern when the Square of Dancers tried multiple jokes, costumes, etc., to throw them off.

Some of the Callers mentioned above had years of experience calling Modern Square Dancing and some were less seasoned. The Chapter would encourage them so they can gain more experience. One Caller also liked to call the occasional Old Time Square Dance tip and many people enjoyed "Birdy in the Cage."

The Gypsy Squares appreciate all those who have led us in dancing and keeping us moving on the dance floor.

Mary Anne Reinhard, C175 Riverside Gypsy Squares



A Quick Look at the Flame King HT-500 portable LP Grill

For years we carried a small Char-Broil electric grill to do our barbequing and grilling while camping, as well as use at home. It was nice in that it provided radiant heat, had a semi-functional thermometer on the cover, and used the campground's electricity, not our LP. The electric grill seemed to last for about four years and then die; getting replacement parts was almost as expensive as buying a new grill, so the first time it ceased working that's what I did – I bought another electric Char-Broil grill. This time, however, I inves-



tigated getting an LP grill. Why, you ask, if I was happy with the electric grill. Two principal reasons: 1) maybe (just maybe) it will last longer than four years, and 2) we've stayed at a few campgrounds were there was no electric hookup – just boondocking – and we could not use the grill at those. We've only recently purchased an RV with a generator, but even at that, running the generator to power the grill would not be in good form, etiquette-wise.

After doing a considerable amount of research, I opted for a Flame King RV Mounted BBQ LP gas side-mount portable grill, which I ordered from Home Depot, as they had the best price. An LP hose does not come with the grill, so I also opted to get a 72-inch x 1/4-inch (I.D.) RV dual quick-connect LP gas hose, since I did not already have one. I opted for the 6-foot hose versus the standard 4-foot hose, as I thought the latter would be a tad too short and limit where I could place the grill. The grill cost about \$100, the hose was about \$20, delivery was free, and the total was less than the cost of another Char-Broil grill.

The grill is designed to either be free-standing or attach to the side of your RV using a supplied bracket. I opted to use it free-standing versus trying to find the proper spot on the sidewall to mount the bracket. To use the grill hanging off of the RV's sidewall, the grill stand (see photo) is hung on the



bracket, the grill is slid onto the protruding arms and then clipped secure-

ly into place. In the free-standing mode (as shown in the lower picture on the previous page), the side of the stand that would attach to the bracket is placed on the ground (or a table) and the grill is mounted on the stand's protruding arms (but no clips are necessary to hold it in place; gravity nicely does that job for you). The grill is quite stable in this latter configuration, but the entire assembly is not very heavy, so it wouldn't take much of a push to shake it up – along with its contents.

The grill's assembly was relatively easy (although the manual is far from being well-written); I determined the side handles (which protruded out another 2 inches from each side) were not needed, as it made it impossible to put the grill in the included carrying bag. The handle used to open the grill cover does not interfere with storage in the bag, and can be used to carry the grill; I suspect the side handles would make it easier to mount the grill on the RV wall if that was the configuration chosen for use, but they have no impact on placing the grill on the mounting bracket for free-standing use. For transport, the lid is held securely shut by two snap latches. The mounting bracket's arms fold over to reduce the overall size for storage.

The LP hose connects to the grill on the underside of the flame control knob, which is somewhat difficult to get to if you use the grill in the free-standing mode (I suspect it is easier to get to if mounted to the side of the RV as it is higher off the ground). There is a friction-powered (versus battery-powered) spark ignitor button adjacent to the flame control knob.

Igniting the grill takes a little practice; it is considerably more sensitive than the full-fledged LP Char-Broil grill I have at home. I found that the gas flow cannot be too high (as recommended by the manual) or too low, otherwise the flame (once ignited by the spark igniter) immediately extinguishes. Even after using the grill over a period of two months, I still don't have that technique down pat. Once the flame catches, though, I have not had an issue with it blowing out due to a strong wind.

There is an angled heat dissipation plate over the burner, which serves two purposes: 1) it helps remove grease that drops off the food you are cooking so it doesn't flame and create a hot spot, and 2) it provides radiant (versus direct) heat, which theoretically helps spread the heat out and make it more uniform to eliminate hot spots. Let it be known that these are tasks in which it has limited success, but I do have less flare-up with this grill than I had with the electric Char-Broil (which was also a radiant heat grill). The grill rack's usable cooking area is about 165 square inches (11-inches by 15-inches); the grill is advertised as having 214 square inches, but I suspect this additional area is the elevated warming rack (see top photo on the previous page).

After I am finished cooking the food, I turn the flame up full-bore for a few minutes to burn off any grease that is on the reflector place or the

grill rack. I then turn off the gas at the RV quick-connect, let the flame burn itself out, and then turn off the gas at the grill. Once the grill cools down, I remove the grill rack and give it a quick cleaning, dry it and put it back in the grill, disconnect the LP hose (and connect it back on itself versus using the supplied endcaps) and place it on top of the grill cooking surface, snap the cover shut, remove the grill from the stand and put it in the carrying bag, and then fold up the base.

I know there are gas grills available for two to three times the cost of what I paid for this grill, and they may not have the issues I have noted with this Flame King model. Before the time comes to replace this grill, I will inquire of other campers using LP grills what they think of the brand/model they have. In the interim, the Flame King grill is an economic option, perfectly adequate for the task at hand, and (once you get used to its particular quirks, as with any grill, gas or electric) it can – in the hands of a competent barbeque chef – produce a well-cooked meal.

(No, this isn't the lost bull! \rightarrow)

A Message from the 68th NSDCA Camporee Chairman

The 68th NSDCA International Camporee is scheduled for June 17 – 19, 2026. We, Sandy McIntire and George Ferguson, are Co-Chairs for the event. We live in Michigan, have been dancing together for 24 years and been camping during most of that time. We enjoy traveling as much as possible and meeting fellow dancers. Many people remember us and have nicknamed us the "Touch a Quarter" badge and whistle blowing couple. We hope to meet you at the next dance.

What a great time we had at the 67th NSDCA International Camporee in Shreveport. It was wonderful to spend time with friends we hadn't seen since the 66th Camporee and to make new friends as well. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Wild West 68th Camporee in Bellville, Texas. Where is Bellville, TX you ask? It is just 65 miles west of Houston.

Much of the "background" work for the Camporee is already in place and we are working out the details. We have an outstanding committee to assist us including our co-chairs, Nikki and Joey Barrett.

Be sure to mark the dates, June 17 to 19, 2026, on your calendar, followed by the National Square Dance Convention in Waco (just 135 miles North). There is so much to see and do in Texas, and attending the International Camporee brings you to the area. Spend a little extra time exploring what Texas has to offer.

Sandy McIntire and George Ferguson, General Chairpersons, 2026

Chapter Campouts

The following listings were last updated on August 1, 2025. The start day for events is Friday unless otherwise noted. Due to the disruption of group activities because of COVID-19 issues, campouts or other listed events may have been cancelled due to local conditions. Please check with the campout contact(s) to confirm the status of the event before making your plans to attend. Thank you.

Thursday September $4 \rightarrow$ September 7, 2025

119 Wander Yonders: Wyoming

Grays Gable (Quadra Dangle Square Dance Club) 3905 Grays Gable Road, Laramie, WY; 307-742-6008 Diana Fergel, 307- 635-7312

152 Campers & Dancers: Alabama

Yonah Mountain Campground

7618 Helen Hwy, Cleveland, GA; 706-865-6546

Janice Salsgiver; 770-252-1040

September $5 \rightarrow$ September 7, 2025

001 Garden State Square Dance Campers: New Jersey / Pennsylvania

Shady Oaks Family Campground

40 Round Barn Rd, Newmanstown, PA; 717-949-3177

Must call Kathy Engel to register at 717-532-5654 by August 1, 2025;

We are joining the Square Up Campers #106

Caller: Bob Engel

Ron/Pauline Vande Vrede; 973-343-3152; vandevrede@optonline.net

031 Badger Rovers: Wisconsin

Token Creek Campground

6200 US Hwy 51, Deforest, WI; 608-224-3730

Thursday September 11 → September 13, 2025

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Wekiva Falls RV Resort

30700 River Road, Sorrento, FL; 352-383-8055

Please call the campground to make your reservation, then call Tom Biehn to let us know you are coming.

Tom Biehn; 757-672-9978; rtb6273@gmail.com

Thursday September 18 → September 21, 2025

002 Pine Tree: Wisconsin

County View Campground

S110 W26400 Craig Ave., Mukwonago, WI; 262-662-3654

Friday night dancing at Foxy Square; it's their Anniversary Dance.

Saturday night dancing at Spring City Dance.

Tricia L. Chartier; 414-807-4083; TriciaMooLady@gmail.com

September 19 \rightarrow September 20, 2025

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Southern Oaks RV Resort

14140 SE Hwy 441, Summerfield, FL; 352-347-2550

Rally rate is #33/night (subject to change); rally rate also available for Sept. 18. Must call the campground and make your own reservations.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell 352-214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com OR Tim Hill, 352-205-0596, doramiata62@yahoo.com OR Angela Brown 352-408-5721

September 19 → September 21, 2025

C-175 Riverside Gypsy Squares: New York / Ontario / Quebec

Lower Beverly Lake Park

146 Lower Beverley Lake Road, Delta, ON; 613-928-2881

Last weekend of the season and includes Club's AGM.

Helen MacCallum; 613-330-4873

September 26 \rightarrow September 28, 2025

045 Penn-Dixie Square Campers: Pennsylvania

Dogwood Acres Campground

4500 Enola Road, Newville, PA; 717-776-5203

Campers must contact the campground directly to make reservations.

Please let them know you are camping with the Penn Dixie Square Dance Camping Club.

Also please contact Kathy Bierbower (see below) to let us know you'll be dancing.

Kathy Bierbower; scoutgirlone@gmail.com; 717-829-4183

196 Wabash Valley Wheel Arounds: Illinois / Indiana

Johnson County RV Campground

2949 E North St.; Nineveh; IN 46164

Contact Wagon Masters Kerry and Alice Richmond for more information

Kerry/Alice Richmond; 812-375-0251

October $3 \rightarrow$ October 5, 2025

001 Garden State Square Dance Campers: New Jersey / Pennsylvania

Cherry Ridge Campsites

147 Camp Rd, Honesdale, PA; 570-488-6654

Must call the campground to make a reservation;

Callers are Dane Bragg and Jenn Engimann

Ron/Pauline Vande Vrede; 973-343-3152; vandevrede@optonline.net

Tuesday October $7 \rightarrow$ October 9, 2025

196 Wabash Valley Wheel Arounds: Illinois / Indiana

Kamp Komfort

21408 County Rd 600 E, Carlock, IL; 309-376-4411

Contact Wagon Masters Curt & Peggy Braffet for more information

Curt Braffet; 309-275-6805; curt.braffet@gmail.com

Tuesday October $7 \rightarrow$ October 11, 2025

014 Blackhawk Crosstrailers: Illinois

Kamp Komfort RV Park and Campground

21408 County Rd 600 E, Carlock, IL; 309-376-4411

Will include a visit to Braffet Berry Farm, community dance, PLUS a possible dinner & play at Barn III Theatre of "Arsenic & Old Lace"

Cinda or Bob Asp; Cinda.asp@gmail.com

Thursday October $9 \rightarrow$ October 12, 2025

002 Pine Tree: Wisconsin

Astico Park (Dodge County Park)

N3620 County Rd T T, Columbus, WI; 920-386-3700

Tricia L. Chartier; 414-807-4083; TriciaMooLady@gmail.com

Thursday October 9 → October 11, 2025

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Hammondell Campsites and RV Park

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

Please call the campground to make your reservation, then call Tom Biehn to let us know you are coming.

Tom Biehn; 757-672-9978; rtb6273@gmail.com

Chapter Campouts—continued

('Campouts' continued from page 45)

October $10 \rightarrow$ October 12, 2025

045 Penn-Dixie Square Campers: Pennsylvania

Twin Bridge Campground

1345 Twin Bridge Road, Chambersburg, PA; 717-369-2216

Campers must contact the campground directly to make reservations.

Please let them know that you will be camping as part of the Penn Dixie Square Dance Camping Club.

Also please contact Kathy Bierbower (see below) to let us know you'll be dancing. Kathy Bierbower; scoutgirlone@gmail.com; 717-829-4183

October $10 \rightarrow$ October 13, 2025

196 Wabash Valley Wheel Arounds: Illinois / Indiana

Rockville 4-H Park

Rockville, IN

Contact Wagon Masters Mike and Nancy Holzhausen for more info. Sunday will be our annual dance at the Mecca Covered Bridge.

Mike/Nancy Holzhausen; 317-989-4533

October $17 \rightarrow$ October 18, 2025

153 Strawberry Travelers: Florida

Southern Oaks RV Resort

14140 SE Hwy 441, Summerfield, FL; 352-347-2550

Trucy Rogers; Trucy.Rogers56@gmail.com

Thursday October 23 \rightarrow October 25, 2025

YYY FANSDC 49th Annual State Camporee **YYY**

Southern Oaks RV Resort

14140 SE Hwy 441, Summerfield, FL; 352-347-2550

FANSDC 49th Annual State Camporee.

For more information, see https://fansdc.net/2025-fansdc-camporee

Florida Association of National Square Dancers Camporee

Treasurer: Debby Miller; 904-891-7016

Chairmen: Laura & Marshall Blick; 904-673-7827

October 31 \rightarrow November 01, 2025

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Sunny Oaks RV Park

8654 New Kings Rd, Jacksonville, FL;904-619-6118

Rate: \$60/day, refundable up to 10 days before reservation date.

12 miles to Fall Festival.

Must make your own reservation.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell 352-214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com OR Tim Hill,

352-205-0596, doramiata62@yahoo.com OR Angela Brown 352-408-5721

Thursday November $6 \rightarrow$ November 8, 2025

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Lake Glenada RV Resort

2525 US Hwy 27, Avon Park, FL, 863-453-7007;

Please call the campground to make your reservation, then call Tom Biehn to let us know you are coming.

Tom Biehn; 757-672-9978; rtb6273@gmail.com

Thursday November $6 \rightarrow$ November 9, 2025

152 Campers & Dancers: Alabama

Roaring Pines Campground

83 Roaring Pines Rd, Somerville, AL;

George Herndon; 334-740-0649

December $5 \rightarrow$ December 6, 2025

128 Square Wheels: Florida

The Springs RV Resort

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

Our annual Christmas Square Dance Party. Passport America rate is \$28/night; they will honor PPA for three days. If staying longer than three days, rate is \$50.80/night. Must call the campground to make your reservation. Deposits are NOT refunded, but will be honored for a future reservation within a year.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell 352-214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com OR Tim Hill, 352-205-0596, doramiata62@yahoo.com OR Angela Brown 352-408-5721

Thursday December 11 → December 13, 2025

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Sunshine RV (Lake Placid)

303 State Rd 70, Lake Placid, FL 33852; 863-465-4815

Christmas Party

Please call the campground to make your reservation, then call Tom Biehn to let us know you are coming.

Tom Biehn; 757-672-9978; rtb6273@gmail.com

June $5 \rightarrow$ June 7, 2026

181 MontShire Campin' Squares: New Hampshire / Vermont

Horseshoe Acres Campground

1978 Weston-Andover Rd, Andover, VT; 802-875-2960

Caller - Don Bachelder

Cuer - Mary Lou Gagliardi

Registrar: Barbara Connelly; PO Box 18, Lower Waterford, VT; 802-745-7621

Wednesday June 17 → June 19, 2026

♥♥♥ 68th NSDCA International Camporee **♥♥♥**

Coushatte Recreational Ranch

4029 Clay Ranch Lane, Bellville, TX

See registration in the centerfold and the flyer on page 36 of this issue.

July $31 \rightarrow August 2, 2026$

181 MontShire Campin' Squares: New Hampshire / Vermont

Horseshoe Acres Campground

1978 Weston-Andover Rd, Andover, VT: 802-875-2960

Caller - Peter Tobin

Cuer - Barbara Connelly

Registrar: Barbara Connelly; PO Box 18, Lower Waterford, VT; 802-745-7621

Please remember: If there is a change to your campout schedule, report it so that the website can be updated. To do this, simply use the process you normally do, enter the dates and location of the campout, and then in the comments section indicate the event has been canceled or relocated. If the latter occurs, be sure to make a new entry indicating the new location. Thank you!

The NSDCA TIMES

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

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

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

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



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



Unless identified as "Used with permission" or a reference is cited, items and articles used in this publication are not copyrighted and we encourage their use in the furtherance of Square Dancing. We only ask that if used, please give credit where due.

Advertising Information and & Rates

RATES for MEMBER ads:

To encourage our NSDCA members, all NSDCA Chapters or NSDCA state, province or other member organizations may place one (1) ad (single page or smaller) once each year free of charge subject to available space. A second ad will be discounted 50% from the commercial rates. Subsequent ads for the same year will be receive a 25% discount from the commercial rate.

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

Review of 2022 model year Coachmen Leprechaun 260DS

In previous issues (see Volumes 62#1, 62#3 and 63#1) I mentioned we traded our bumper-pull trailer for a Class C motorhome. While we extremely liked the floor plan of our Winnebago 2500FL and its internal cargo carrying capacity, it was getting to be too much for us to set up, principally in leveling the trailer. Many campsites (outside of the ones we go to for our NSDCA events) have rather unlevel sites; the Class C has hydraulic levelers make the process of leveling the RV much easier, but sometimes even that amenity requires human intervention (by placing leveling blocks under the tires and/or the landing gear to extend its reach) in order to get the unit level.

Overview

We looked at several RVs with basically the same floorplan (see below), and settled on the Coachmen Leprechaun 260DS due to its large basement storage capacity (60 cubic feet). Our RV came with two air conditioners, both of which can be run at the same time with 30-amp shore power; there's a special energy management device that ensures the compressors both don't start at the same time, and the A/C units are configured for soft-start, meaning they draw less current when the compressor kicks in. We've been able to run an A/C and the microwave at the same time, quite a feat! The 'house' part of the motorhome has two slides: one that extends about three feet and contains the queen-sized bed (which folds up when the slide is retracted) and another that extends about two feet that contains the 10.8 cubic foot 12V refrigerator/freezer and a relatively comfortable jackknife couch that can handle one adult or two small children. Our model came with three (!) televisions: one in the bedroom, mounted on the outside of the bathroom wall; one in an outside storage compartment; and one on a swing arm in the cab-over bunk area. The 'house' is built on a Coachmen factory-extended Ford E450 'cutout'



Note: Outside basement storage access is under both slides, the bathroom and dinette.

chassis, and is equipped with a 7.3-liter V8 gasoline engine with a six-speed transmission that (for us, anyway) gets between 9 and 12 mpg, even while pulling a toad. The unit has a 55-gallon gas tank, but I have yet to find a locking cap for it (Ford doesn't sell one, and the major auto parts houses do not seem to carry one either). Coachmen has significantly beefed up the suspension with stiffer springs and shock absorbers, which makes for a relatively comfortable ride.

Dinette The 1

The L-shaped dinette has a pull-out section (identified as '18" EXTN.' on the floorplan, previous page) where a cushion can be placed to easily accommodate four adults, converting the L-shape into a U-shape. When the table is lowered to sit on that extension (with appropriate rearrangement of the cushions) a decent-sized bed is formed. Please note that I did not say that bed was comfortable, only that it was decent-sized! There's a pull-out drawer under the short leg of the dinette, and storage under the long side along with a 120-volt outlet near floor level. Above the dinette are two horizontally-opening cabinet doors that provide access to storage; a CD/DVD player is mounted to the underside of those cabinets, and 12-volt lights are positioned under-cabinet to illuminate the dinette area. Another 120-volt outlet is on the underside of the overhead cabinet.

To access the storage under the dinette seat, you must remove all the cushions (fortunately they stack nicely on the jackknife couch, which sits opposite the dinette) and remove the wood cover that the cushions rest on. Unfortunately, there's no convenient place to store the wood cover (it would have been nice if it was hinged so it could remain in place); we temporarily lean ours up against the refrigerator. There's a large sliding glass window in the wall behind the dinette (complete with screen, a sunshade and a light-blocking shade).

There's also storage space under the jackknife couch. For some reason, the decorative panel that must be removed to access the storage area is not hinged; you have to slightly raise the seat (as if you were getting ready to turn the couch into a bed) before you can lift the panel off – then you need to find a place to temporarily put the panel. We also place this panel in front of the fridge; one of these days I am going to put a piano hinge on it, just like the way it was configured in the Winnebago. Above the jackknife couch are three storage compartments; these have semi-frosted glass windows in the cabinet doors, and a separate switch allows interior illumination of this area. There is also an under-cabinet light for illuminating the couch area and another 120-volt outlet.

There are no cup holders in the dinette area or by the jackknife couch. This seems to be an oversight on the part of the designers, as there are seatbelts to accommodate passengers in those areas; where are they supposed to put their beverages? In addition to the seatbelts, there's a connector where you can hook a baby seat (although if it was me, I would be

('Leprechaun' continued from page 55)

sitting adjacent to the child versus leave them in the back all by themselves!)

Cab-over Bunkbed

Of course, being a Class C, it has a bunkbed over the cab, which is accessed by a fixed-length ladder that is provided (with no convenient place to store it). There are two windows in the bunk area, one on the driver side, which opens (with screen and a light-blocking shade) and the other faces forward (which does not open, nor does it have a shade). There's a small shelf in front of the forward-facing window, but I don't suggest placing anything small on it, as it can fall through the gap between the trim and the window, making it difficult – if not nearly impossible – to retrieve (ask me how I know).

There's a vent with a Fantastic Fan (and additional vent cover) in the ceiling above the bunk, two reading lights (on opposite sides of the frontfacing window) and a regular ceiling light (with the switch in the ceiling in the bunk area). The bunk comes with a removable bed panel to give more headroom in the cab (but no convenient place to store it, other than pushing it further into the bunk area) and a partially-removable netting that helps prevent any bunk occupants from tumbling out of the bed at night, but it would also would inhibit egress when one needs to climb down to use the bathroom. We use the bunk for storage, so the netting helps keep things from accidentally falling off. There's a curtain that can be used for privacy (or to hide the stuff that is kept on the bunk); the curtain also does a good job of blocking the heat that accumulates in that area due to the front-facing window out of the rest of the living space. The main (32-inch) TV swings out from the curb side wall, so I suspect if the bunk were to be used for sleeping (children only; it's too confining for adults due to low headroom) the TV must be swung out and positioned as if it is being viewed, so little feet don't pound the screen at night. There's also a 120-volt outlet by the TV, one of the sockets being used by the TV while the other is free.

Kitchen

The kitchen area is functional but is definitely tight on counterspace, even with the extensible folding shelf that provides some extra space to put a toaster oven, coffee maker, etc. The shelf extends into the passage-way between the public space of the RV and the bedroom area, so when the shelf is used it makes for a very tight fit to get by. The countertop is a solid surface (Corian-like) material, with a marble-like finish. There is a large, circular sink that has a countertop-matching cover to increase the usable counterspace, but using the cover prevents one from using the sink while preparing a meal. The three-burner cooktop does have a glass cover (that folds up and out of the way when using the cooktop) that is basically level with the countertop surface, so that helps somewhat. There's a fairly

useless oven (due to a maximum available four-inch cooking height when the rack is at its lowest position) under the cooktop, and a very quiet, large cavity convection microwave above. A range hood (that does not exhaust to the outside) provides additional illumination. In addition to the light provided by the hood, another light is mounted under the cabinet by the sink area, and there are LED lighting strips on the underside of the counter lip which can be used to provide a (fairly bright) nightlight for those sleeping in the bunk.

There's one cupboard area (above the sink) with no shelf; I find that I am constantly bumping my head on the upper cupboard when doing the dishes due to the relative placement of the cupboard and the sink. There's a 120-volt outlet/5-volt USB pop-up immediately adjacent to the sink, and thus far that has not been an issue with water intrusion, but if I was designing this kitchen, I would have put that outlet elsewhere. It is convenient to plug the coffee maker and toaster oven into, but we have to be careful due to its location; it certainly could have been placed on the underside of the upper cabinet.

There's a decent-sized storage area under the sink, accessible by cabinet doors on the front and side of that space. There are four stacked pull-out drawers (hidden behind a single cabinet door) under the countertop to the left of the sink, and to the right, in the slide (between to the cooktop/stove and the fridge) are two doors that house a deep, narrow pantry. There's also another drawer below the fridge. The fridge/freezer, as stated earlier, is 10.8 cubic feet and runs off of a 12-volt compressor; it cools down quickly. There is a 'sleep mode' which reduces power consumption at night, which should be used if you are boondocking to the conserve house battery.

Bedroom

The bedroom is at the rear of the RV, immediately behind the kitchen area. There is a sliding door to isolate the bedroom area from the rest of the RV, but as access to the bathroom is from the bedroom, this door blocks access to the bathroom if you have children or sleep-over guests on the jackknife couch, dinette or bunk. There is a magnetic catch on the sliding door that works very well; it takes a good bit of force to open the door, and it rapidly slams shut once the catch-plate gets within an inch of the magnet, making a racket which would wake the dead.

There is a ceiling light and a reasonably-sized closet (with two access doors) on the way to the bedroom, along with three small pull-out drawers below it. There is no barrier at the back of the drawers, so something could fall out and into the water heater or furnace air intake areas, which are in compartments below the closet and drawers. Next to the closet is the control panel that has switches for the DSI water heater, movement for both slides (which, by the way, are operated by Schwintek controllers and servomotors), the Onan generator, tank heaters and the Winegard

TV/wireless/cell phone booster.

As you enter the bedroom, on the left you'll see the door to the bathroom, a small TV on the bathroom wall to the rear (along with a 120-volt outlet), a very small corner cupboard at the back (along with another 120volt outlet), and on the right there's storage above the head of the bed (which is somewhat of a challenge to get to if the slide is extended). The switch for the ceiling lights is adjacent to the bathroom door, and as noted earlier, an air conditioner is inserted in the ceiling vent in lieu of a Fantastic Fan. As previously stated, the bed is in a slide, and the bed folds roughly in half to allow the slide to be retracted. Mounted to the right below the bed is a CD/DVD player, a dual 5-volt USB outlet, a 12-volt outlet and a 120-volt outlet; note that the outlets are only on one side of the bed (that's something else I am going to correct – one day!) There's a single light under the overhead cabinet for reading in bed, with a single switch off to one side; again, the Winnebago had two separate lights with individual control, a layout that was more convenient. There are little shelves in the slide adjacent to the mattress, convenient to place your reading glasses or a small paperback book, but nothing bigger or wider. There's a small ledge in front of the slide's sides where one could put a PAP machine. The rear window opens (with great difficulty) only for emergency egress; there is no screen and there are no windows in the slide, thus cross-ventilation (if not using the air conditioner) is impossible to attain. The rear window has both a sunshade and a light-blocking shade. There's no under-bed storage; that space contains the 50-gallon fresh water tank. Also note that to get to the bedroom you must step up about 5 inches, and to get to the far side of the bed there's another 5-inch step.

Bathroom

The bathroom has a decent-sized 'medicine cabinet' and a shelf that pulls out from under the closets (and over the toilet, indicated by a dashed line over the toilet on the floorplan) to increase the counter space in the bathroom. The toilet is ceramic, the shower has a tempered tri-fold glass door on a track, and there's storage under the sink. The shower had a translucent dome to allow extra light into the bathroom (at least during the day!) and gives a little extra headroom for those that are extra-tall. The vent could have used a Fantastic Fan, but instead the standard cheap, noisy one was installed. We installed an after-market vent cover on the bathroom vent. The unit came with a nice mirror (mounted in a good position so people of all heights can use it), towel hooks (which are too small to be really useful), a towel hoop and a toilet paper holder. The shower's controls are, as usual, mounted upside down, so it takes some getting used to for turning the handles the correct way when adjusting the water temperature. The bathroom is a little tight on maneuvering space,

but certainly manageable.

Curb side entry door

There is no external step to get into the RV, a feature we liked (one less thing to break or forget to retract). Sometimes we need to put a little stepstool outside the door to make it a tad easier to gain entry (based on the campsite's topography) but the external and internal grab handles allow you to gain hold to steady yourself as you go in. The RV's curb side entry door does not have a window, which for us is no big deal, as when we had one the shade was usually drawn, so when someone came calling, we couldn't see out anyway! There's ample viewing from the window behind the dinette if you need to see who is at the door.

The screen door has the usual ill-fitting sliding cover that you must shut when the outer door is open in order to attempt to keep small bugs out. The outer door does not have friction hinges, but relies a manually operated catch bar to hold the door open. We've found this necessary only if there's a stiff breeze. The latch on the outer door surprised us as to how it operated. Our previous bumper-pull trailers all automatically unlocked the deadbolt as you pushed down on the handle to exit the RV. Not so in this unit (and it appears in other Class C units): you must unlock the deadbolt and the handle lock separately – the handle does not open them; additionally, you pull up on the handle to open the door versus push down as we were accustomed to doing. This is really only a concern if we needed to leave quickly through the curb side door, something we hope never happens. It is very dark in the RV at night, so we keep a battery-operated nightlight illuminating the public space where the door is located, just in case we need to make a quick exit that way it allows us to somewhat see the deadbolt latch, handle locking bar and handle. We

also keep an additional fire extinguisher and fire blankets close by.

As you enter our RV through the curb side door, you will find (on the right) a fire extinguisher attached to the low partition that forms the back of one of the sides of the dinette, and the baby seat tie-down attachment is on the floor. On the left side there's a wide (but not too deep) threeshelf cupboard, the breaker/fuse panel and the control unit for the hydrau-lic leveling jacks, along with a host of light switches (which have an ex-tremely odd organization), a remote power switch for the fridge, the bat-tery cutoff switch and a control switch for the curb side awning. There are dual 5-volt USB outlets and a USB port above the door, along with a small open storage area, good for maps or paperback books; we also keep our small foldable umbrellas there. The Winegard booster unit is mounted on the ceiling above the entryway stairs.

There are two more ceiling vents (making a total of four for the RV) in the kitchen/dinette area. We have placed vent pillows in those two vents

('Leprechaun' continued on page 60)

('Leprechaun' continued from page 59)

to minimize heat load; while it does darken the 'public space' somewhat, there's plenty of light that comes in from the side windows (and the cab, if you are not using the provided window cover or curtain to separate the cab from the living space).

To be continued in the Winter issue of the *TIMES* where the vehicle's cab, exterior, customer service and conclusions will be presented, along with a summary table of what we like and would like Coachmen to consider changing on future models.

Please consider submitting a review of your RV; it doesn't need to be as detailed as this review, but hitting the highlights and problem areas would certainly be beneficial to another member when they are considering changing from the unit they presently have.

Thank you.



Hurry and get signed-up for the 68th Annual NSDCA Camporee being held in Texas. In addition to getting your official NSDCA (pin) badges free, we would like for you to take \$50.00/couple - \$30.00/single off your camporee registration fee for the upcoming 2026 Wild West camporee, being held at the Coushatte Recreation Ranch in Texas.

(June 17, 18 & 19, 2026)

Need additional information contact: John & Dolly Ide (352) 208-5980

('Trea\$urer' continued from page 9)

show our appreciation for the work that these organizations are doing, NSDCA made a donation to be split between these three state organizations in the amount of \$150.

Don and I left from Shreveport to meet up with friends and to dance in Denver, Colorado, Billings, Montana, Big Timber, Montana, Lolo, Montana and then on to Bettendorf, Iowa. We ended our camping and dancing in Plymouth, Indiana at a Power Plus weekend with Eric Henerlau. We arrived back in Alabama on July 28th just in time to dance with the local club that evening to the calling of Jet Roberts and Scott Bennett. Wow, what great dancing!

Now is the time for everyone to start making plans to attend the 68th International Camporee in Bellville, Texas at the Coushatte Recreation Ranch. We already have 20 rigs registered for 2026 Camporee. The updated 68th NSDCA registration is now available in the centerfold of this issue and on the nsdca.org website.

If you know some dancers who are campers as well, talk to them about joining your Chapter and then attending the 68th Camporee in Bellville, Texas. We are running a special that if they join NSDCA they will receive a pin badge at no cost or they can get a magnet badge for \$3. If they register for the 68th Camporee, they will receive a \$50 discount off the camporee fee (the normal camporee fee is \$180, but first-time attendees will only pay \$130 for the camporee fee). The camporee fee includes the camping and activities for the three Camporee days: June 17, 18, 19, 2026. Hope to see you there!

Don & Susan

Afterthoughts

Here's another of our favorite campground signs. On our annual travels to New England, we often stay at the Mountain Top RV Park in Montague, NJ, a day's drive from our terminal point in Maine. The park is divided into two sections: seasonal sites are on one side (where the dump station is located) and transient sites are on the other, located

in a large open field (water and electric is provided). There's a large outdoor pavilion in the center of the field, and as you can tell, they have an interesting take on what your RV speed should be.

Send your photo of an interesting sign sighted at a campground to NSDCAtimes@gmail.com. Please be sure to identify the campground and, if possible, provide a brief write-up of the facility.

Thank you.

Your NSDCA Editor



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