

NSDCA



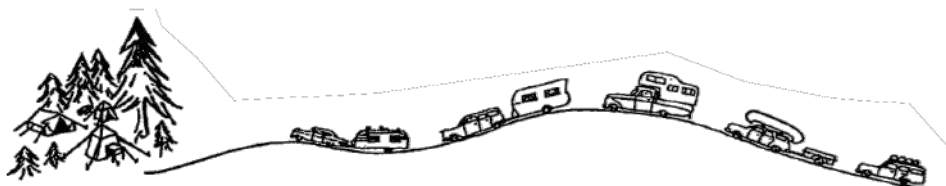
TIMES

December 2025—February 2026 Volume 64 Issue 1

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Things to Do & See in Bellville



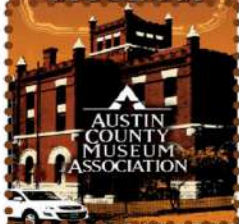
Newman's Castle

A medieval castle deep in the heart of Texas



The castle, complete with a moat and drawbridge, was built by local baker Mike Newman. It's a whimsical destination that transports you back in time. Newmans Bakery is a nearby must do.

AUSTIN COUNTY JAIL MUSEUM



Nothing quite like a good old Texas Jail!

A Meat Market with a BarBQue counter

Don't leave without a taste of award-winning pecan smoked barbecue and their sinfully good Back Porch Pecan Pie.

Bellville General Store A real step back in time.

Dry Creek Stables

horseback riding lessons tailored to beginners and experienced riders alike

The Bellville Perk

A small-town version of American TV show Friends a classic coffee shop with a modern twist. Order the regular hot or cold java or specialties Frappes, Smoothies and more all made to order.

that's to name just a few...



Settled in 1822 by 2 brothers who immigrated from Florida, The Courthouse Square remains as it was laid out in 1846, many of the historic buildings have now been transformed into a collection of unusual and unique shops and businesses.

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FORETHOUGHTS

As I write this, the clocks are about to change, and Fall has finally come to Florida. Eighty degree temperatures just don't cut it for Fall! I have been informed that it is much easier to find the missing camper, alligator or bull by looking at the online version of the *TIMES*. It is in full color, and you can take advantage of your browser's magnification features to enlarge a page, which certainly might help in finding the missing item.



I appreciate the submissions regarding Chapter Callers; there's another installment in this issue (Mike Gormley of Strawberry Squares, #153), with another to come on husband and wife Caller/Cuer team Tom & Kathy Nickel of Badger Rovers (#031) coming in the next issue.

Of course, there's lots of information on the upcoming 2026 NSDCA International Camporee, along with a registration flyer for the Illinois State Camporee. Part two of the Leprechaun 260DS review is included, and, as always, my favorite—the *Chats around the Campfire*, a.k.a. the *Chapter Chats*; there are contributions from 14 of our Chapters. Let's hear from yours!

I'm still looking for contributions from our membership on the topics of campgrounds, RV modifications, recipes, favorite signs seen on your travels (at a campground or otherwise), 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 (and shouldn't!) be the length of a novel; 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



First, we want to wish you all a fun Halloween, since I'm writing this on October 31st even though you won't be reading it until the beginning of December. Along with Halloween, we might as well include our wish for you all to have a great Veterans Day, blessed Thanksgiving, joyous Christmas, fun New Years eve, and then a lovely Valentines Day. All that between this issue of the *TIMES* and the next in March which comes out just four months before our next Camporee. Looking back, it's already been four months since our last event in Shreveport, LA back in June and you know how quickly the holiday season rolls by. It seems like one week it's Halloween, then the next week we're looking at St. Patrick's Day. The point of all this is that it's not too early to plan on attending our next NSDCA Camporee in Texas next week (really in June 2026).

If you missed the Shreveport Camporee, you missed a great event, so be sure not to miss another one. Our Texas event will be held at the Couthatte Recreation Ranch between Sealy and Bellville, TX, just 50 miles or so west of Houston. The Ranch is the location for the regular monthly campout of the Houston Area Square Dance Campers, and we expect a number of them to join us at this event, so make your reservations early. The Camporee is being chaired by George Ferguson and Sandy McIntire, with lots of help from their co-chairs Joey and Nikki Barrett, new members from Texas. There are numerous local attractions in the area as well for you to enjoy in your spare time (if you have any).

Since our event is in Texas the week before the NSDC in Waco, TX, about 140 miles northwest of Couthatte Ranch, you can simply move from our Camporee to the NSDC and enjoy a great two weeks of camping and dancing, as this year. There's plenty of down time to relax and enjoy Texas as well as the dancing, crafts, games, shopping, and of course the fellowship and camaraderie to be shared with old friends. It's a time you don't want to miss.

We understand that we're all getting older and getting our rigs on the road gets more challenging each year, but think back over the Camporees you've attended. Think about the friends you met and made from places near and far, the interesting and fun locations in this country that you hadn't seen before, and the warm and wonderful memories

('President' continued on page 35)



Roy Huddleston & Priscilla Newton



Hello Campers. We are hoping you have had an enjoyable couple of months to camp, dance and making new friends.

We have been talking to the Georgia State Square Dance Association about trying to get some of their special dances held in places that have a building, campsites and motels to accommodate all square dancers for a larger turn out for greater enjoyment. They would like to contact the Florida Chapters that would like to join in on the Winter dance and other state square dances.

We would like to thank the square dancers that stayed at campsites and motels for the Alabama State Convention in Oxford, AL this year.

We got to dance in September but not October; Priscilla was transferring from the couch to her wheelchair when it rolled out from under her and she fell on her stump. This was a severe bruise on the bone, so she is still not able to walk yet. We are hoping she will be able to resume the fun by mid-November.

We hope everyone has a very enjoyable Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

The Birmingham Square Dance Association will have a New Year's Dance at the Friendship Hall in Fultondale, AL on December 31, 2025; all are welcome.

God bless all of members and officers.

Happy Trails from *Priscilla and Roy*

A Note about using the NSDCA Campout Entry Routine

I have noted several campout entries that do not have a hyperlink associated with them, which causes extra work backfilling the information. The hyperlink is a shortcut to a Google Map location that assists a potential attendee of your event in obtaining directions. The link is automatic IF (and you'll notice that's a big if!) the person doing the campground entry selects the campground from the drop-down menu. If the campground is new, give your editor a few days heads-up before entering the data, and I'll ensure the new entry is in the list that we maintain (see a copy in the Summer 2025 issue, Volume 63#2). Be sure to provide the correctly spelled campground name and the address in the email notifying me. I'll let you know when the database has been updated. Thank you!



Tricia & Neal Chartier



Neal and I had such a wonderful time this year in Shreveport for the NSDCA Camporee! One of the highlights was meeting Nikki and Joey Barrett from Texas. Nikki discovered a drive-up daiquiri bar, and we loved it so much we went there twice! We're so excited that Nikki and Joey will be co-chairs for the 2026 Camporee in Texas — we know it's going to be a great one!

We also had the pleasure of having lunch with Peggy and Jeri Huston. They lived in Louisiana for several years and absolutely love the local food. I decided to try a shrimp dish and asked them to “go easy on the spices” — but it was still so hot I had tears running down my face! The waitress was so kind; she brought me the extra seasoning they didn't use — nearly two tablespoons' worth! I can only imagine what the full-strength version would have done to me!

We enjoyed 11 potluck dinners at the Camporee, which really brought everyone together and made the week so special. We also met Marcia and Terry Brubaker from Colorado Springs, who are the camping chairpersons for the 2027 National Square Dance Convention in Loveland, Colorado.

In October, Neal and I attended a wedding and decided to drive up to visit Marcia and Terry (→) for dinner — just one of the many bonuses of attending Camporees: you make friends from all over the country who quickly start to feel like family.



I'm also thrilled to share that we've welcomed 35 new members to NSDCA so far this year! Let's keep up the great work finding new members and sharing the fun of camping and square dancing. And don't forget — dues are now due!

Tricia & Neal Chartier



Susan & Don Wolford



We're glad to be back in Florida for the warmer weather! When you are reading this we will already be full swing into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. It's a wonderful time of year. The Chapters in the north will have already winterized their campers. but the Florida Chapters will just be getting into their camping schedule.

Florida put on a great Florida Camporee (FANSDC) in October in Eustis, Florida. The theme was "Welcome to our Wild Jungle Safari." The callers and cuers had fun with the theme. Some of the songs were a stretch in applying them to the Safari theme, but the callers and cuers made it work. We danced six squares. It was fun to join with the Florida NSDCA camping clubs for dancing, fun and fellowship.

As we are nearing year-end, remember to send in your Chapter renewals. If you have been a recipient of a certificate representing payment for your 2026 dues, whether through finding the alligator in one of the *TIMES* newsletters or through a drawing at the 67th International Camporee in Shreveport, don't forget to send your certificate as payment to your Chapter representative so it can be forwarded to the NSDCA treasurer as payment. If you are an "At-Large" (000) member, just send in your certificate with your Individual Membership Renewal form for 2026.

Has your address changed? Do you now have a different winter address from your summer address? Are you making a change from one Chapter to another? Please remember to send in any changes to your address. You can go to the nsdca.org website, select the *Forms* dropdown, and click on *Address Change or Transfer*. It is a fillable form. This saves NSDCA from having to pay additional postage for forwarding address for the *TIMES* newsletter. We want you to receive your newsletter in a timely manner so you can read all the exciting news of the different Chapters.

Please remember to register for the 68th Camporee in Bellville, TX. We will be 'Ridin' High – Heading West!' We currently have 22 campers signed up to attend.

We hope y'all have had a safe and happy Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dance all you can. Stay healthy.

Don & Susan



Kathy Nickel

Membership Secretary



Hi Everyone. I hope that everyone had a Great Summer; I know we did. I am now enjoying the Fall weather here in Wisconsin, as it is a real colorful season, where the trees are turning yellow and red and some of the flowering bushes just seem to be extra vibrant with color.

I want to offer kudos to the members that have already renewed for 2026. Keep the renewals coming, and be sure to send yours in before the December due date. The Membership Renewal price is the unchanged from last year for existing members: \$10 for a single and \$20 for a couple.

Kudos also go to the 23 new members that joined since June of this year. Check out the NSDCA website (<https://www.nsdca.org/>) for the "Special for New Members." The cost for new members is only \$10 for a single and \$20 per Couple and if they get a pin badge, their badges are FREE (versus \$10), but if they want a magnetic badge, it is only \$3 (versus \$13) per badge. This is a great marketing tool for you to help get new members for your Chapters.

Send all address changes and winter location updates along with your renewals. Remember, the USPS no longer forwards magazines, so I need to have your winter address to mail it directly to you. If it is sent to your summer location, we will get the newsletter returned and charged for non-delivery. If you changed Chapter Officers for 2026, check for the form on the website that you should also submit.

Have yourself a wonderful Holiday season.

Happy Camping, and Dancing!

Kathy Nickel, Membership Secretary



State & Area Representatives' Reports

Illinois State Representative

The Illinois State Board met on September 22, 2025. The meeting with prayers for the family of LONG TIME NSDCA member, dedicated Illinois State member, and always willing to pitch in and help, friend Ed Nightingale, Chapter 075 who had recently, and unexpectedly, passed away. Our sincerest sympathy to his wife Margie and his family.

Chapters brought forth their upcoming events. It sounded as if there were still lot of fun activities planned for and held in October and early November. You could almost smell the apple cider donuts, etc., as they were mentioned available at one of the October events.

The final report of the 2025 Illinois State Camporee was presented along with a check for the state share of the profit. The 2026 Illinois State Camporee, hosted by Chapter 123, Swing-N-Travelers, will be held June 5-7 at the Marshall Putnam County Fairgrounds, Henry, IL. This location has been used by Chapters in Illinois many times, so most are quite familiar with the facility. The theme will be "Happy Birthday America."

Of course, now that we in Illinois are approaching the real Winter with freezing temps and snowy and icy roads, our members who have not—or who soon will be—headed south, have winterized their campers and 'stored' them away 'til Spring. With winter comes the many holidays. May all of yours be joyful and enjoyable. Wishing ALL a blessed New Year.

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

Florida State Representative

I look forward like most of us to a festive holiday season, BUT I take time to reflect on how much sweeter this time is because of belonging to something larger than myself and my family. Oh, how much friendship and absolute joy square dancing has brought to my life this past dozen years!

Square dance camping is very much alive and well in the Sunshine State. Just last weekend we enjoyed our State camporee together in Eustis, FL. Our theme this year was our 'Wild Wonderful Jungle Safari.' Under the guidance of our chairpersons, Marshall and Laura Blick, our three Florida chapters – the Square Wheels (#128), RoadRunners (#193) and the Strawberry Travelers (#153) gathered together for three full days of dancing, games, crafts, sales, golf, and of course, one of my favorite past times, eating! We have so many talented callers in Florida: Mike Gormley (#153), John Sweeny (#193) and Bill Chesnut (#128) for this go round, and the lovely and talented Susans: Susan Snider (#128) and Susan Wolford (#153) cueing. At one point we had eight squares and

('Representatives' continued on page 11)

(‘Representative’ continued from page 10)

another time fourteen couples waltzing. We are all fortunate to be able to add new members this past year, but of course we are looking for more new members.

We elected new Board officers, and our State organization, FANSDC, will now be headed by Marshall and Laura Blick as President, Susan Snider and Mark Fetzner as Vice President, Ken and Carolyn Shacter as Secretary (you should recognize Ken as our editor of the NSDCA *TIMES*), and Wayne and Debbie Miller as Treasurer.

The Strawberry Travelers (#153) will celebrate Christmas early together at Paradise Park in Punta Gorda, FL on December 5 and 6; email Trucy.Rogers56@gmail.com for further details. The Square Wheels (#128) are meeting at The Springs RV Park in Silver Springs, FL on the same weekend. Email ramseydp@comcast.net for more details.

We hope that many of our Northern brethren who winter in Florida will contact our local clubs to continue to be blessed by the company of your fellow square and round dancers.

Happy Holidays!

Laura Ramsey, ramseydp@comcast.net



A Correction

The following was received from our perennial punster Jim Sebesta (#045), but this time he wasn't kidding around! He wanted to correct a typo in the name of the location where the first NSDCA Camporee was held, as reported in the Fall issue of the *TIMES*. He wrote, "Having grown up in that area I can tell you there is no such thing as Shavano Lake in Wisconsin. It's called Shawano Lake (w not v) and it's pronounced *Shaw-Know*)."

"Just because I'm from there I can tell you a few useless facts about it. The word *Shawano* is a Menominee Indian word that means 'Southern Boundary.' When the first white settlers arrived in that region, I'm guessing the Indians pointed to the lake and said, 'Shawano,' not only giving the lake its name but also indicating the lake was the southern boundary of *their* territory (so maybe you newbies want to go settle over on the OTHER side, okay?) The town of Shawano sprung up a couple of miles away on the Wolf River and thrived on the lumber industry for a time. There is only one community named Shawano (and also only one Shawano Lake) in the entire world."



001 Garden State Square Dance Campers; New Jersey

It is the end of another great season of camping; time really does fly when you're having fun. Can't wait until we start again in May.



In August we were back at Appalachian with Mark Franks as our caller. We were a small group this month, but had a great time as always. On Saturday morning we workshoped six different plus level calls for our newer plus level dancers and a good refresher for all of us (*Relay the Ducey, Spin Chain Exchange the Gears, Load the Boat, Teacup Chain, Track Two* and *Spin Chain the Gears*). The weather was great, we had lots of laughs and were thankful for the guests that came to the dances.



Group at September camp out at Shady Oaks Campground

In September we joined our friends Square Up Campers #106 at Shady Oaks Campground. Bob Engel was the caller. It was the first time at this campground; everyone liked the campground and dancing with newly made friends. We had a 'grandparent breakfast' on Sunday morning before going home.

We ended our season at Cherry Ridge Campground with callers Dane

Bragg and Jenn Engimann. We always had four squares on the floor. A couple of us learned some advanced calls on Saturday afternoon. Some of the club went on a scenic train ride, and the four families who stayed until Monday went out to dinner at The Dock Sunday night.



**Pauline, Ron, Tammy and Howard
at the Stourbridge Line scenic train ride**

It was a great season and hope to see you all May 1st through the 3rd when we start up again at White Oak Campground with Bob Engel calling. Please see our schedule on our website, <https://gssdca.wixsite.com/gssdca>, in the back of this newsletter, and online at 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.

Tammy Signorino; tammysignorino@gmail.com; 732-552-7722
002 Pine Tree; Wisconsin

What a wonderful camping season we had in 2025! We kicked off the year by joining Bob and Cinda Asp and the Blackhawk Crosstrailers #014 at Pilgrims Campground. One of the highlights was a fun evening out for dinner and a show at The Fireside Theater (photo on the following page). Cinda even had me bring my sewing machine, and with her help, I made a special cow ornament — a perfect “Moo Lady” touch to remember the trip! See the photo on the the left.





Chats

('Chats' continued from page 13)

In June, Neal and I attended the Illinois State Camporee, and we had an absolute blast. Right after that event, we headed to Shreveport for the NSDCA Camporee, making it a 17-day adventure we'll never forget.



We heard (herd?) that some members hesitated to attend the Louisiana Camporee because they expected it to be too hot — but the funny thing is, it ended up being hotter in Wisconsin than it was down south!

This year, we also tried out three new campgrounds, adding even more variety and memories to our travels. Our camping season usually runs from May through October, and we always hope to end the year surrounded by the beautiful changing fall colors.

Here's to another season filled with friendship, laughter, and plenty of campfire stories!

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

014 Blackhawk Crosstrailers; Illinois

Our Chapter's fall outing was in Carlock, IL at the Kamp Komfort Campground. We were joined there by several other NSDCA Chapters to combine the fun and frivolity of Square Dancing. On the first night, Bob Asp called to two squares of dancers. There was a beautiful full moon, but it was a chilly night out. Unfortunately, there was a county-wide bonfire ban, so NO bonfires the whole time we were there.



On Wednesday, we all gathered at the Braffet Berry/Apple Orchard farm for some autumn delights. Curt's wife, Peggy, told us the history of the farm before serving us apple samples, cider and cider donuts. Afterwards, we loaded up the wagon and Curt (with Bob co-piloting) gave us a fun hayride as we saw skeletons, spiders and bees, OH MY! After the hayride, some folks braved the corn maze, others explored the storybook trail, while others chatted with the pigs and some enjoyed shopping.

That night we had a potluck dinner back at camp before we headed over to Carlock's Community Center for a square dance with the locals.



Cider donuts looking good at the Braffet Berry Farm

Bob and Curt called for 5 to 6 squares all night long. Many met up with old dancing friends.

A bunch of us then presented Curt



Loaded for a hayride at the Braffet Berry Farm



Blackhawk Crosstrailers at Barn III for dinner & showing of "Arsenic & Old Lace"

with at least 20 blue medal ribbons to help out Tom Manning with a surprise to honor Curt for winning earlier this year in the last-square-standing contest!

On Thursday, Cinda led creative ladies in various craft creations before the Chapters all separated to have Chapter meetings. Later that night, Blackhawk Crosstrailers went to Barn III for dinner and theater to see "Arsenic & Old Lace." The meal was yummy. One of the actors, who portrayed the son Mortimer in the play, also was our table's waiter for dinner and dessert. Other actors also did a second role as servers.

Our next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026

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Chats

(‘Chats’ continued from page 15)

at the Pizza Ranch in Roscoe, IL. On May 14 – 17, 2026 we’ll be heading up to Ft. Atkinson, WI and the Pilgrims Campground. A visit to the Fireside Theatre will have us seeing “Hairspray.”

Martha Schapals; wmpabilywm@gmail.com

031 Badger Rovers; Wisconsin

We had our last campout in September with a great celebration; our club is the BIG 55! Many local dancers joined our celebration, which was a fun day with crafts, dancing, food and the evening campfire. Our winter meeting will be hosted at Tom and Kathy Nickel’s home.



Until spring! Thank you.

Sharon Schmidt and David Lust (a.k.a. Winter Texans); 608-289-7582

044 Illiana Square Wheelers; Illinois/Indiana

Holiday greetings from the members of Illiana Square Wheelers, Chapter 044, Illinois/Indiana.

While our chapter is almost 55 years old and our members older than that, we are still hanging in there, although just by a thread. But we’re doing our best to keep the



Chapter alive by getting together with former Chapter members who no longer dance, camp or who have moved away. The most recent get together came about when our former caller Lottie Buckbee and her husband Bruce were in the area for several calling events. Oh good, Bruce and Lottie are going to be here; let's have a get together - and that we did. An enjoyable afternoon and evening were spent at the home of Don and Barbara Zamastil, which included a delicious lasagna dinner prepared by Barb with sides and dessert supplied by attendees. We also played games before and after dinner.

Ruthann Sanders; RSRN4@aol.com; 708-650-6122

085 Mobile Squares; Colorado/Nebraska

In September we traveled to Scottsbluff, NE and attended the *Legacy of the Plains Harvest Festival*. The Scotts Bluff National Monument served as a back drop for our church service. We also visited the Minatare Lighthouse, which is a historic mock lighthouse built by the Veterans Conservation Corps in 1939 (see the photo, below left).



In October we toured the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Fort Collins and the Kinikinik Ranch, which was established in 1885 (see photo, above right). We also had the privilege of attending the funeral of one of our dear friends, Ron Kauffman.

We will finish the year with a Christmas party at the Eaton Country Club. Wishing you all a good winter.

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

106 Square Up Campers; Pennsylvania

Why is Square Up Camper Marti Harnish smiling so happily? (See photo on the next page.) After cooking many pounds of bacon, she is ready to feed 27 hungry





Chats

('Chats' continued from page 17)



dancers! She loves doing this and states it is no work at all. We appreciate both her grin and friendship. This Sunday morning breakfast feast occurs in the barn at Twin Bridge Campground at our yearly October campout in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Joining her (photo above) is the other hard working food prep group: Karen Statler, Pat Donnelly, Sue Hess and of course Marti. Why not join our friendly and always hungry group at a future crisp fall campout sometime?

Kathy Engel; kathy@kuhncom.net

116 Camping Squares; Kansas

In August, we went to the Yoder, KS festival for a day trip, as no camping was available. It was a fun festival followed by a great dinner at a Yoder restaurant.

In September, we had a campout at Fall River Lake. There was a Fall River Rendezvous American Frontier Festival with old-time events. We were also invited to the Fall River cabin of a fellow square dancer for shared food and a caller so we could do some dancing. It was a great weekend!

Our final campout at Pomona Lake was cancelled due to quite a few illnesses in the club. We had our Annual Meeting at a local restaurant on



Oct 21. It's always a good time to get together for food and fellowship.

We are finished camping for the season and will have winter get-togethers at various restaurants each month through the winter.

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, email Marty & Frank Golden at fmgolden9515@sbcglobal.net or call 316-943-4137.

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

123 Swing N Travelers; Illinois

If every Chapter member who is able to attend and would come all at once, we would have a total of 25 every campout. But unfortunately, either other things come up, there is sickness, or members are just too busy; this seems to be extremely common for us. But no matter whether there are five or 25 members present, you can still have a fun time with your square dance friends.



In July, 11 of us enjoyed Kentuckiana. We were part of their "Christmas in July," where we saw many Christmas lights and activities. The warmth continued into August at Friends Creek State Park with a record of 21 attending, and one couple having dinner with us and visiting during our potluck. In spite of the heat, the pavilion's fireplace was a nice addition. Next, we changed our plans for September where I found that New Salem State Park was a plus for me, as I could enjoy some of President Abraham Lincoln's stomping ground, but only 12 members found us, with one having RV issues - so they arrived later. Our final campout for the season was at Arrowhead Campground, where the campground was celebrating Halloween with 12 members attending.

As we close the year for camping in our area, I am looking forward to the plans already in the making. In April there are plans for a dinner fellowship with dancing afterwards. The committee doing Memorial weekend is already working on our agenda. The Illinois State Camporee (from June 5 -7, 2026) is on the fire for sure, with plans making it work for everyone. Come and join us, as we will be having square dancing right at our campground and lots of food, of course. That should be a fun time for everyone. If you have any questions, email John & Liz Hand at lizhand92@yahoo.com and they can give you the information you need. We would love to have you there!

Before I close, we had the sad news that we lost our friend, Ed Nightingale, on October 5th. It was just a year ago, that we said goodbye to Sue Mayer. Both of those couples spend their winters in Arizona. Many went to the visitation or the funeral. Our prayers are for Margie as she now has to decide what she will do. Hopefully, we can all help her in some way.

Janet Bowman; cabjcb2@gmail.com



Chats

(‘Chats’ continued from page 19)

128 Square Wheels; Florida

Our weekend at Southern Oaks had its usual mixture of fun and fellowship, but since it *was* September, it also was our annual Chapter meeting. Consenting to lead us forward, our next President will be Ron and Linda Imus. How lucky are we! They will be joining our returning Board: VPs, Wayne and Debbie Miller; Treasurer, Mary Chesnut; and Secretary, Laura Ramsey. A massive thanks to Tim and Angela for leading us for the past four years.



We had three squares and seven couples round dancing for the majority of that weekend. There were folks we do not get to see often who attended, and Saturday brought some walk-in visitors from the Ocala Twirlers.

Our caller, Bill Chesnut, played *Baby Shark* and caused all the grandmothers on the dance floor to pray they wouldn’t hear it overnight as an earworm. Bill also introduced me to a song I hadn’t yet heard, *So Far, So Good*, and dedicated it to one of the callers we have lost from the past. Cuer Susan Snider played the crowd favorites *Af ’n Af* and *Axel F*, but I now have a new favorite of her music, *A Better Place*, which is a rumba.

We have created the beginning of the 2026 camping calendar; thank you Tim and Angela! Speaking of next year’s calendar, we will not be going to Eagle’s Roost in Georgia in February as has been our custom these past several years as they have almost doubled their rates, so we will go to Bushnell instead. Please see our schedule on the NSDCA website or in this issue of the *TIMES*.

Yay, Laura and Marshall Blick!!! All who attended the ‘Wild Jungle Safari’ the third weekend of October in Eustis, FL were blessed with cool Fall mornings and beautiful afternoons to celebrate the weekend they organized. It takes volunteers to keep our organization strong, and Laura and Marshall have only been square dancing for two years, but they jumped right in with enthusiasm and Marine tenacity. It is hard to thank them enough.

We began the weekend on Thursday night, when all were encouraged to wear our best jungle garb. Marshall and Laura even had pith helmets! We had three excellent callers at the helm: our own Bill Chesnut, Mike Gormley, John Sweeney and the two beautiful Susans as cuers: Susan Snider and Susan Wolford. There were actually 14 couples dancing a waltz at a time, and once we had eight squares. John Sweney called plenty of tips but one song that I had never hear before, *Razz*, had the floor

hopping. I also have never heard Susan W's choice of *Puff the Magic Dragon*, but it was beautiful.

Friday began with golf for some of the guys. I didn't get a clear picture of those results because we also had a great time playing games. Donna P introduced me and others to Quirkle—totally fun and I am adding it to my list of Christmas presents; thanks to Brian Z for teaching me strategy. Our afternoon workshops included one by Mike Gormley called *Parade*. I loved it! Our dance for the night called for our club colors, and once more red and black dominated. We took club pictures.



Friday was also the day where Square Wheels were introduced to our newly elected officers: Ron and Linda Imus will take over presidential duties in January. I know Tim and Angela were ready to hand over the reins after spending four years as our leaders. After a fun evening on the dance floor, the crowd was introduced to the Golden Girls, a.k.a. Pat Herscha, Carolyn Ueber, Marilyn Scott and Laura Ramsey. This skit introduced the theme for next year's 50th anniversary of FANSDC camporees, our Golden Jubilee. And we got a load of Blanche (Pat) practicing her flirtation skills on Caller Bill Chesnut, who played our delivery man from the newly merged FedEx and UPS delivery companies; you know, they are now known as "FedUP!!"

Saturday, as usual was our craft day with Glenda Masters leading in the creation of multi-purpose bags; they turned out so cute! Then it was time for our yearly Sloppy Joe lunch. Thanks to the Strawberry Travelers (#153). Lunch was followed by our annual FANSDC meeting. The biggest news from that meeting was that we have new officers; please see the Florida Representative's Report for more on this topic.

The dancing on Saturday night had the best attendance, thanks to some late arrivals. We continue to truly enjoy the friendship and camaraderie with our fellow campers, and we have some either with no camper or not yet owning a camper; they sure have brightened our group.

(“Chats” continued on page 22)



Chats

(‘Chats’ continued from page 21)

We will close out 2025 with our annual December campout/Christmas celebration, held (once again) at The Springs RV Resort in Silver Springs on the weekend of December 5th.

If you have been gone for a while, know that you are missed. For our members suffering from health issues, you are in my prayers. Thanks for your friendship!

Happy holidays to all!

Laura Ramsey, Secretary; lauraramseyslp@gmail.com

153 Strawberry Travelers; Florida

Hello everyone! At the time of this writing, we have just broken camp and dosed the fires of the 49th FANSDC ‘Wild Jungle Safari Camporee.’ We all had a wonderfully wild time with some very talented callers and cuers! The hosts, Laura & Marshall Blick of Chapter 128 did an outstanding job of organizing, decorating, and orchestrating the long weekend of fun festivities, activities and best of all, the dancing!



I know from past experience that it takes a lot of planning, adjusting, and readjusting to pull off a successful camporee and you two did Gr-r-reat! Of course, I also know that you had A LOT of helping hands (and feet) and good ideas from many others who always show up time after time to pitch in and do their part—or more than their part. Thanks to ALL of YOU too! Another mention of thanks to those dancers and members who showed up to attend the camporee as well because without you, ALL of you, there would be no reason or even a way to continue on. That brings me to some sad news that I must announce . . .



Strawberry Travelers' first of the season October campout was scheduled for the weekend prior to the FANSDC camporee. We did not have enough rigs scheduled to camp, so we were unable to book as a rally, and each of us attending had to book as individual campers and pay the higher rate. In addition to not always having the minimum of 10 rigs required for a rally rate, there is also a lack of people able and/or willing to serve as Chapter officers. But then again, it also is hard to serve when there are not many that participate; it seems to be a "catch 22" situation. Therefore, at our Chapter's business meeting on Friday, October 24, 2025, we voted to fold Chapter 153, Strawberry Travelers. Our December campout, which will be Strawberry Travelers 39th Anniversary, will, most sorrowfully, be our last.

Trucy Rogers; trucy.rogers56@gmail.com

C-175 Riverside Gypsy Squares; Ontario, Canada

The Gypsies have wrapped up another successful season of camping. With winter coming in the (hopefully, far distant future) next couple of months, most of us have put our rigs away for the winter and are looking forward to our first campout in May 2026. Some of our members are looking at traveling to warmer climates for the duration of our winter. In August, we had our regular corn roast, and September was our wrap up for the 2025 season.

Our Club seems to be getting smaller as members are getting older. We will be doing some advertising over the winter to let people know about the Riverside Gypsy Squares and hopefully entice them to join with us next summer for some fun times.

We are also preparing for our Mid-Winter Dance on February 22, 2026. That is when those of us who have stayed here in Canada get together to catch up on each other's news since our last campout in September. We will also be having a New Caller Showcase that day so we will be looking forward to hearing up and coming new callers in this area.

Wishing all of our American friends a wonderful Thanksgiving, and everyone a healthy and happy Christmas Season.

Sincerely,

Helen MacCallum; hmacallum49@gmail.com; 613-330-4873

193 Florida RoadRunner Squares; Florida

Hello, Friends!

Florida's wonderfully cooler weather is here and the 2025 Hurricane season slipped by (amazingly so far) without a single hurricane hitting our shores at all. We have not had a year like this in quite a while.

Last week (I am writing this in October, by the way) we enjoyed our 2025 Florida State Camporee. What a



('Chats' continued on page 24)

(‘Chats’ continued from page 23)

blast, as we all enjoyed a “Wild Jungle Safari” weekend filled with fun, parties, great food, lots of dancing and just a few wild animals, but by far the best of all was being together with square dance friends from across our great state of Florida. We had awesome calling and cueing from all our Florida clubs and this year some “FUN” squares were added to the program and seemed to be a hit with everyone.

You need to start right now to make plans to attend next year’s “50th Golden Anniversary Jubilee.” That’s right, in October of 2026 Florida will celebrate 50 years of State Camporees, and we are planning a great party. The “Golden Girls,” Dorothy, Rose, Blanche and Sophia even made a special appearance on Saturday night to assure us that the Golden celebration next year is one you don’t want to miss. Of course, Blanche, true to form, tried to make off with the delivery boy, Caller Bill Chesnut, and the very talented Golden Girls gave us all lots of Golden reasons to get signed up right now for 2026. So, it should go without saying; make your plans now to be in Florida, October 22 – 24, in 2026.

In September our Chapter’s campout held a unique surprise for all of us, as we found an unusual late-night swimmer in the pool after our dance. One of the good-old boys from the park, someone much braver than myself for sure, went into the pool and caught the 3-foot gator with his bare hands. Sorry the picture is not the best, but that gator added lots of excitement to the after party for sure.

I’m happy to say that we are blessed with an entire square of beginner dancers this year, so we got busy at both the September and October campouts making, sewing, and fitting club outfits for all, and our Club looked really great at the Camporee thanks to everyone’s hard work.



Well, no alligators showed up in October, but we all had a great weekend together at Hammondell Campsites in Winter haven, FL. Our Ok-

toberfest party with the Shufflin' Squares on Thursday evening at their location gave our beginner dancers an opportunity to get out there and dance with strangers. I remember that being very scary way back when



John and I began learning to dance. But you don't have to square dance very long to find out that square dancers are only strangers for a few minutes. A few of the Shufflin' Squares came out to dance with us on Saturday evening at our location and we hope to do that again sometime. Of course, our Saturday mornings are the very best as our men do the cooking for all of us girls, and you already know that food really does taste better when someone else does the cooking. We are surely blessed with handsome men that are awesome cooks too!

I normally end this Winter Chat with an invitation for all snowbird camper/dancers to come camp with us at Highlands Hammock State Park, the 2nd Saturday in January; however they have been closed all year for campground renovations. Thus I invite you to an alternate campground right now, Buffer Preserve Park in Fellsmere, FL. Details are online and in the 'Campouts' section of this newsletter. We would love to have you join us for any weekend.

Are you all getting ready and making your reservations for June of 2026 to be with us at the 68th International NSDCA Camporee at the Couthatte Recreation Ranch in Bellville, Texas? Not only are you going to have fun at the Camporee, there is lots to see and do in Bellville, so be sure to watch for all the 2026 Camporee news to come so you won't miss a thing!

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: <https://fansdc.net> 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

(Continued on page 26)

196Wabash Valley Wheel-a-Rounds; Indiana/Illinois/Ohio

I love the Fall season and all its color. Camping season for 196 has gone by too fast again this year. We have one remaining outing coming up at the Indiana State Convention in a couple weeks. For now, I will share some of the highlights of the second half of our camping season.



In August, we did a repeat trip to the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Ohio. This is a very nice campground with lots to offer nearby, including the *Sauder Village* and a section of the original *Miami Erie Canal*. We did our usual “Breakfast for Supper” first night meal. The next day we each enjoyed activities of our choice and then visited a local Mexican restaurant before attending a local club’s dance. They were glad to see us and we enjoyed being part of other dancer’s fun. On Saturday, several of us took advantage of the re-enactment of the Erie Canal boat ride with a period presenter offering lots of good information on the time it actually operated. Thanks to Don and Carol Graber for all the printed information on the area you provided!

September found us back in Indiana at the Johnson County Park Campground near Camp Atterbury. This was one of our best attended trips this season and also a very active event. Friday’s potluck was a Fall-themed soup supper. Saturday gave us many opportunities to enjoy multiple activities in the area or just fellowship with each other. This was another new location for us, and fit our needs perfectly. After a meal at a nearby restaurant, we attended a local club’s dance. On Sunday we danced with another local club after a fantastic buffet lunch in Seymour, IN. Since our group enjoys food, we followed up the dance with some of us going to a local ice cream parlor (photo below) with lots of vintage décor and restored furnishings. Really good ice cream treats also!

For October, we did two back-to-back events: one was in Illinois and



the other a repeat in Indiana. In Illinois, we shared a campground with another NSDCA Chapter and it was fun to enjoy time with these friends. Our group also was able to spend some time with one of our favorite callers, Curt Braffet, at the Braffet Berry Farm Fall Festival. We loved the apple cider donuts! Everyone managed to get out of the corn maze, and the hayride included entertainment by our own Karaoke Queen, Marian Hatfield. Thanks so much, Braffet family, for your hospitality! In addition to all this, we also attended two dances with local clubs. Back in Indiana



Janet Lewis calling at the Mecca Bridge.

we concluded October with our repeat to the Covered Bridge Festival in Rockville, IN and the special Mecca Covered Bridge dance (photo above). Thanks, Janet Lewis, for being our caller again this year.

We were excited to share our campfire with several visitors this season and are thankful Jerry and Margene Dwenger will be part of 196 going forward!

Happy camping and please join us anytime you are where we are. We will make you welcome!

Karen Gerbers; dkgerbers1@gmail.com; 260-403-4846

A Quick Note about provided Pictures

Please remember to send photos just as they come out of your camera; no additional compression should be applied.

Close-ups work best, and if possible, try to frame the photo so no trees, posts or furniture appears to be sprouting from someone's head.

If you provide a caption for the photo (see examples in this issue), I will do my best to include it.

Thank you!



and the FUN continues...

There were 18 entries this time providing thoughts on the location of our 2026 Camporee mascot, our lost male bovine—a.k.a. “Bully” (as now dubbed by this contest’s winners). Of those entries, everyone had the correct location: Bully is taking a walk on the tightrope at the bottom of the Fall issue’s page 36 flyer for the 2026 International Camporee. The winning entry for the Fall issue contest are Karin & Dick Callender of Square Wheels (#128, FL). Congratulations, Karin & Dick, 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 wayward bull are as follows: From perennial punster Jim Sebesta #045 (PA), “The lost bull is square dancing (hoofin’ it) along a tightrope suspended above the page number at the bottom of page 36. He tells me it’s a publicity stunt based on the Camporee theme “Ridin’ High and Headin’ West” to draw everyone’s attention to the bulletin hanging above him announcing the 68th NSDCA International Camporee. A tightrope dancing bull is such an incredi-bull stunt it takes the bull by the horns and hit’s the old bulls-eye right in the center.”

Steve & Winnie House #193 (FL) offered the following: “Texas is a big place, but the Lost Bull has comfortably found his niche at the bottom of page 36, hanging out waiting for next year’s Camporee, right in the flyer! (I had our daughter’s longhorns looking for him, too.)” Here’s a photo of one of Steve’s daughter’s longhorns (→).



Tom & Rita Biehn #193 (FL) stated, “The lost bull is hitching a ride on the bottom of next years Camporee flyer on page 36. He’s standing on the rope!”

Martha & Wally Schapals #014 (IL) informed us that, “The lost bull can be found at the bottom of page 36, walking the “type-rope” to see if he could become unlost! Now if only that horseshoe won’t fall down on him, he may just make it!”

This issue’s winners, Karin & Dick Callender #128 (FL) stated, “No bull about it, I believe Bully is hanging out at the bottom of page 36, trying out his new boots by balancing on a slack line, circling the flyer for the next Camporee.”

Kerry Richmond #196 (IN/IL/OH) wanted us to know that, “The bull is slack rope walking, perhaps practicing for a new game at that Campo-

ree.”

The following comments are all from #123 (IL) members, the winners of last year’s contest for the most entries (by absolute number and percentage of members): Jim and Sharon Waller opined, “The bull is on his way to the NSCA 68th International Camporee ... walking on the rope.” Mary & Dave Bruun stated, “The wayward bull is trying to do some tight rope walking instead of having a cowboy rope him at a Texas rodeo. The bull is located on the same page number as last issue—what a coincidence). John & Carol Scher noted, “The bull is ‘walking the rope’ on the bottom of page 36! Ya-hoo!” while Pat Edwards commented, “I know tight rope walking is difficult but walking on a hanging rope must be really tough like this bull is trying on the bottom of page 36.” Lastly, Norma Schertz wrote, “The lost animal is at bottom of page 36 center standing on the rope, trying to hitch a ride to Texas for next year’s Camporee.”

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

(‘Contest’ continued on page 30)

Chapter name	Ch. #	Entrant
Blackhawk Crosstrailers (IL)	014	Martha & Wally Schapals
Illiana Square Wheelers (IL/IN)	044	Ruthann Sanders
Penn-Dixie Square Campers (PA)	045	Jim Sebesta
Camping Squares of Kansas (KS)	116	Mike Huddleson Frank Golden
Swing ‘N’ Travelers (IL)	123	John and Carol Scher Jim & Sharon Waller Pat & Chet Bowman Mary & Dave Bruun Pat Edwards Bill & Kathy Baker Norma Schertz
Square Wheels (FL)	128	Debbie & Bill Cassidy
		Dick & Karin Callender
Strawberry Travelers (FL)	153	Susan & Don Wolford
Florida RoadRunners (FL)	193	Steve & Winnie House Tom & Rita Biehn
Wabash Valley Wheel Arounds (IN/IL/OH)	196	Kerry Richmond

Note: This is NOT the lost bull, but the wayward one looks similar to this one. Notice there are no riders on this bull.



(‘Contest’ continued from page 29)

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.)

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 a bull, now dubbed ‘Bully.’ [I’m thinking Teddy Roosevelt!] I’m certain you noticed a bull in the list of contest submissions immediately beside the members of Chapter 123 that made contest submissions. Let’s get this bull back on the road—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 January 31, 2026). 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! Please note 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!



We Remember Our Friends

Ed Nightingale (Swing-N-Travelers, 123)

The Chapter 123 Swing-N-Travelers are deeply mourning the unexpected passing of Ed Nightingale on October 5, 2025.

Ed was born in Moline, IL and spent most of his life in the area. It's also where he met and married the love of his life, Margie, and where they raised their family. Ed worked in various departments at Alcoa before retiring in 2001 after 37 years. Ed and Margie spent their summers at Sunset Lakes Campground near Joslin, IL and their winters in Yuma, AZ. They celebrated their 60th anniversary this summer with a trip on the Rhine River from Holland to Germany via France.



Ed enjoyed camping and dancing and was a proud founding member of Trail-N-Squares, Chapter 075. He and Margie have also been Associate Members of Swing-N-Travelers, Chapter 123 for 30+ years. In all that time, Ed was on the Illinois State Board many times and served in many positions on several committees. Whenever anyone needed help of any kind, Ed was the first one to volunteer.

When we think of Ed, we remember a guy with a ready smile that refused to wear anything except cowboy boots, a guy who was a true “Pepsi-holic” in every sense of the word, but would drink “only the kind with REAL sugar,” and a guy who absolutely hated bananas in any way, shape, or form!

We love and miss you, Mr. Ed!

Submitted by Carol Scher

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.





RIDIN' HIGH - HEADIN' WEST SQUARE DANCE

68th INTERNATIONAL NSDCA CAMPOREE

Coushatta Recreation Ranch

4029 Clay Ranch Ln., Bellville, Texas 77418

June 17, 18, 19, 2026: Camporee Events



Date: _____ NSDCA Membership # _____

NON-Member - (Requires added \$20 Surcharge-See Below)

Information for PARKING by LOCATION & RV NEEDS

ARRIVAL 06/____/2026 DEPARTURE 06/____/2026

STATE _____ CHAPTER # _____ HANDICAP _____

ELECTRIC: 30 AMP _____ 50 AMP _____

Adult Name #1 (Please Print) _____

Adult Name #2 (Please Print) _____

Mailing Address (Include Apt and/or Box number) _____

City _____ State/Province & Zip/ Postal _____

Phone Number (cell phone preferred--include area code) _____

Email address _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Phone # _____

Additional Persons per Unit (Base Fees are for two Adults per unit and unmarried children under age 21)

Youth Name _____ Age _____ M _____ F _____ Adult Name _____ M _____ F _____

NSDCA Camporee Fee: 3 Days...\$180 2 Days...\$150 1 Day...\$120 (ALL FEES IN US FUNDS ONLY)

Please √ days planning to camp: (Extra Days Campsite Fees @ \$35 per day) **NonCamper Fee: _____ \$90**

Sun 14th _____ Mon 15th _____ Tues 16th _____ **Wed 17th** _____ **Thurs 18th** _____ **Fri 19th** _____ Sat 20th _____

Unit with only one person (check): _____ Deduct \$45; Extra adults # _____ \$45 each; **Non NSDCA _____ Add \$20**

DANCE INTERESTS (√ Interests)

Square Dance	Round Dance	Line Dance
_____ Mainstream	_____ Phase II	_____ Lines
_____ Plus	_____ Phase III	_____ Contra
_____ A-1/ A-2	_____ Phase IV/ V	_____ Partner
_____ MS Workshop	_____ Plus WS	_____ A WS
_____ Youth/Teen Program	_____ SSD Workshop	

SPORTS/GAMES (√ Interests)

Corn Hole M _____ F _____ Washer Toss M _____ F _____
Bocce Ball M _____ F _____ Other _____

Craft Interests M _____ F _____ Youth _____

Other _____

Are you a Veteran? _____ (Branch) _____

Caller / Cuer Participation (√) (Due by April 1)

Square Dance	Round Dance
_____ Mainstream	_____ Phase II
_____ Plus	_____ Phase III
_____ A-1	_____ Phase IV
_____ A-2	_____ Phase V
_____ Youth/Teen Dance Program	_____ Other

Caller Name _____

Availability (√) Tu _____ W _____ Th _____ F _____
T

Cuer Name _____

Availability (√) Tu _____ W _____ Th _____ F _____

Lines Instructor _____

Availability (√) Tu _____ W _____ Th _____ F _____

Camporee Fee \$ _____	Extra Fees \$ _____	Add'l Days \$ _____	Total Fees \$ _____
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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 Member wins Prize for *TIMES* Recipe!

Who would have believed it? The wife of the NSDCA Webmaster won an award for using the recipe of the NSDCA *TIMES* Editor. Yes, Carolyn Shacter (USA) submitted a recipe for a No-Bake Apple Pie in the Fall issue of the NSDCA *TIMES*. About the same time, the C-175 Riverside Gypsy Squares (Canada) were having a pie judging contest prior to their pot luck dinner, and Marguerite Summers submitted a pie using Carolyn's recipe, and it placed second in the judging! So now Carolyn gets bragging rights and can claim that she has an "award winning recipe."

However, finding the cook and serve vanilla pudding in Canada was not easy. We searched three major grocery stores (including Walmart) before finding it in a small country store.

The pie was delicious; everyone liked it. The prize was a dish cloth with apples on it (→).



Marguerite Summers

Editor comments: Marguerite is correct - it is quite the challenge to find "cook & serve" pudding, much less the sugar-free variety (which is what I would have preferred). Not all Walmart stores carry the "cook & serve" pudding in the United States either - most of the stores seem to carry only the instant pudding (which has an odd taste to me). When we were in Maine, Carolyn finally found it in a New England-based regional grocery chain (Market Basket). Our local Walmart in Florida *did* carry the proper pudding, however.



(‘President’ continued from page 5)

that were created. Consider the experiences you would have missed had you not come to a Camporee. Don’t miss another opportunity to make more memories (while you can still remember them).

In addition to our annual Camporee, each year brings with it an opportunity for someone new to join the national Board of Directors. The terms of office are designed so that each year one of the four officers completes their four-year term making way for someone new to join the Board, with new ideas and experiences. Serving on the national Board is not hard or extremely time-consuming, but it’s very rewarding when you realize that you’ve been part of a national organization that’s been instrumental in bringing square and round dancing, and simply lots of fun, to many people. This year, we’re also looking for a new editor for the *TIMES* newsletter. Ken Shacter has done an outstanding job for nearly eight years and would like to retire. If you have any skills and interests in that type of creative work, get in touch with Ken. I’m sure he’d be glad to tell you all about the task. If you would consider either of these opportunities, let any current Board member know.

Dolly and I wish you all enjoy a blessed holiday season and look forward to dancing with you all again next summer in Texas, or sooner depending on where your travels, or ours, take us in the meantime.

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

Dolly and John

A brief update on important NSDCA Rules and Guidelines per NSDCA Standing Rules, Policies and Procedures:

Associate Membership:

1. Implies memberships in more than one NSDCA Chapter.
2. Associate member(s) may not hold office or vote in the Associate Chapter(s).

Registered Trademarks (Logos): [see page 51 for the logos]

1. Are proprietary to the NSDCA and must be used correctly.
2. Is indicated as on the upper right front of the *TIMES* cover.
3. Must include each of the following:
 - A) Two crossed campfire logs.
 - B) The words “NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CAMPER”.
 - C) Enclosed in a red and black border.
 - D) The fire must be resting on or touching the crossed logs.
 - E) The mark ® must be placed immediately under the logs.

Any other use must be approved by the NSDCA Board.



2026

Illinois State Square Dance Association

State Camporee

June 5 – 7, 2026

All Dancers and Callers/Cuers Invited

Squares and Rounds Friday & Saturday

Marshall-Putnam Fairgrounds

915 University Ave. Henry, IL. 61537

Make Check payable to: Swing-N-Travelers

Mail to: Charlene Fahsbender, 1616 4H Park Rd. Pontiac, IL. 61764-9189

Charlene – (956) 532-4503

Last Name: _____ First: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Chapter Name: _____ Chapter Number: _____

Type of Unit: _____ Length: _____

Camping includes water/electric Fee: \$90.00

Extra Nights Camping : \$30.00/night _____ = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Friday Evening meal provided: \$10.00/person (Bring your own drink)

Saturday Evening Potluck – All Campers Welcome

Sunday Morning Breakfast – Free Will Donation

Orange Rice

Ingredients:

- 4 Tbsp butter
- ½ cup chopped celery
- ¼ cup chopped green onion
- 1 cup long-grain white rice
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup water
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 orange, peeled and with all the white removed, and cubed
- ¼ cup toasted slivered almonds



Courtesy of
Lori Lacey

Steps:

- 1) Melt the butter in a saucepan.
- 2) Sauté celery and onion until soft, about 5 minutes.
- 3) Stir in the rice and brown lightly, stirring constantly for 3 to 4 minutes.
- 4) Add orange juice, water, and salt.
- 5) Bring to a boil.
- 6) Cover and reduce heat; simmer for 25 to 30 minutes, or until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed.
- 7) Gently fold in orange cubes and almonds.
- 8) Serve with lamb, chicken or game bird.

Nutritional information is provided below.

Makes about 6 one-cup servings; each serving is ~160 calories.

Total fat (g)	10	Cholesterol (g)	19	Sugars (g)	7
Saturated fat (g)	5	Sodium (mg)	457	Protein (g)	2
Poly unsat. fat (g)	2	Potassium (mg)	202	Vitamin C	48%
Mono usat. fat (g)	0	Total carbs (g)	17	Calcium	6%
Trans fat (g)	0	Dietary fiber (g)	2	Iron	2%



Attention Veterans

If you are a veteran and are interested in receiving a 'Quilt of Valor' at the 68th International NSDCA Camporee in Bellville, Texas, PLEASE

contact Dolly Ide (352) 598-7162 or by e-mail: dloutz9504@outlook.com
If you are not familiar with Quilts of Valor Foundation please go to their web page www.qovf.gov and check out this awesome opportunity.

Mike Gormley—Strawberry Squares 153 Caller

Mike Gormley is currently the Caller for Florida's NSDCA Chapter 153, Strawberry Squares. He initially started out with the NSDCA as an At-Large Chapter member (Chapter 000) in 2020. He started square dancing in 1980, and became a Caller in 1994 (making it 31 years of calling) and started cueing in 2012 (making it 13 years of occasionally cueing Phase II level rounds).



Mike loves to sing and perform, which is one of the aspects that drew him to participate in Amateur Callers Nights when he and his wife lived in Ohio.

When the Toledo Area Western Dance Leaders Association offered a mentorship program in 1994, Mike's wife encouraged him to enroll. Mike's mentors were Phyllis Gilson and Randy Stephenson, both Silent Microphones now. There were three students in the class, but Mike was the only one to complete it.

Mike was co-Caller for one year prior to becoming Strawberry Square's full-time Caller in 2024 when former Chapter Caller Charlie Pergrossi announced his intent to step down, and Mike was approached to take his spot.

When not calling for the NSDCA, Mike calls for the Tropical Twirlers square dance club in Sebring, FL. It is a caller-run club that was established in 2018. At to be expected, there have been ups and downs since COVID, and that club is still in a growing mode.

Mike retired in 2011 and moved to Sebring from the Florida Keys. His background was electrical design of lighting, power distribution and industrial control systems for commercial and industrial projects; he had his own business for 21 years, which morphed into a "technical temporary" employment service. After retirement, he and his wife were full-time RVers for 11 years.

While Mike considers Sebring, FL his home (where he lives 10 or 11 months of the year) he also has a manufactured home in Liberty Center, OH where most of his family is within a 2 ½ hour drive.

Mike has been camping for as long as he can remember, which means camping in Northern Ohio and Southern Michigan an old-style canvas tent with his parents and two siblings. He got a pop-up camper in the early 1970s, and currently owns a 2013 Lance pickup truck camper with slide out. When he was full-time camping he drove a 40-foot, 4-slide, Winnebago Horizon diesel pusher.

Even though Mike has been calling for 31 years, he has no immediate plans to retire from this avocation; he says either his health or the dancers will make that decision for him. In both his NSCDA and brick and mortar clubs, Mike tries to support the new dancers, helping them dance

at their level and have a good time. He feels they shouldn't be rushed to higher levels until they are ready; some may never be ready, and that is okay. He says, "Just do your part; don't sit back."

Regarding Florida's State camporee, he enjoys staying in touch with everyone, the socializing, campfires and skits. His least-favorite aspect of the State camporee, however, is getting up early in the day for activities; most everyone knows he is a late sleeper! As to the International Camporee, he likes the opportunity to travel to other parts of the country and see the sights; the Camporee provides a destination. At the Camporee he enjoys the same activities as at the State camporee; however, just as with the State camporee, he would prefer to sleep in! Regardless, Mike has been attending both the International and Florida State camporees since 2022.

Mike has also been a guest Caller at other states' conventions and clubs in Ohio and Michigan. He is a member of the Toledo Area Western Dance Leaders Association and CALLERLAB. He has served as Treasurer, Vice President and is current President (as of October, 2025) of the Florida Callers Association. He has served as Treasurer, Vice President and President of the Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association (SCCAFL), was former webmaster of the SCCAFL.COM site, and is presently webmaster of Florida's NSDCA State Association site, FANSDC.NET. Mike is serving on the planning committee as Squares Assistant Vice Chair for the 77th National Square Dance Convention, being held in Daytona Beach in 2028. Other hobbies include ham radio and being a Highlands County, FL Emergency Management volunteer; he is also a Florida National Scenic Trail maintainer. Mike's web page is at www.mike-gormley.com and he has a Facebook Caller Fan Page at www.facebook.com/mike.gormley.caller.



*Leaves are
Falling,
Waco
is Calling!*

Register today for the
**75th National Square
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Sign up at
<https://75nsdctx.com/register/>

Want the latest news
and events fast? Scan
the QR Code for our
Facebook page



**Celebrate the NSDC's
Diamond Jubilee with us
June 24-27, 2026
Waco Convention Center**



**Get your dance on
at the 75th National Square
Dance Convention®**



What types of dancing can I enjoy at the 75th NSDC?

- Square Dance: Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, Specialty
- Round, Contra, Line, Clogging, Youth & Specialty Dance

Watch *National Squares* e-Magazine, Facebook and our website
for dance information for the 75th NSDC

Don't miss the fun! Sign up at
<https://75nsdctx.com/register/>

June 24-27, 2026 • Waco Convention Center



A Message from the 68th NSDCA Camporee Chairman

Whew! How time flies. It's just over 6 months until the 2026 International Camporee. We have had a number of suggestions for activities to be included; thank you all for those ideas. We have worked with our co-chairs Nikki and Joey, and have given them some ideas to work on. They also came back with some ideas of their own. We plan to meet with them in Texas early next year.



We will visit “the Ranch” in person to check out the areas we have to work with and review plans and ideas.

We thought you might like to know a little about Nikki and Joey. Here is their introduction:

Howdy y'all! This is Nikki and Joey Barrett, and we are the Co-Chairs for the 68th NSDCA International Camporee scheduled for June 17-19, 2026 here in Texas at Bellville. We live in Arlington, Texas (home of America's favorite football team, The Cowboys). The stadium ('Jerry World' as we call it) is only five miles from our house. We have been proud Texans all our life. We have been dancing for nine years; our



home club is the North Texas Camping Squares, but we love to dance with everyone. Glamping (luxury camping) is one of our favorite things to do. We love it so much, we have been dancing and glamping for nine years now. Our neighbors got us into this glorious sport as they painfully watched us back up our RV into our backyard and simply asked us, “Do y'all Square Dance?” Before I could blink, we were in lessons and learning how to *Spin* and *Dosado*.

For those unfamiliar with Texas, we are a big and proud state. Our state spans 773 miles east to west and 801 miles north to south. We have everything here from beautiful mountains to sandy beaches. It would take you about 13 hours to drive non-stop across Texas going 60 miles per hour. That is quite a haul! Luckily, we do not have to drive very far to the 68th NSDCA Camporee; it will only take us four hours, unless we stop at Buc-ees, a favorite Texas gas station (be sure to add at

least an hour to your trip if you stop there).

Last year was our very first NSDCA Camporee (Shreveport) and we had a blast. We look forward to working with Chairs Sandy McIntire and George Ferguson. Come join us for this year's event in Texas at the Coushatta Recreation Ranch and RV Park. Pack your boots and hats as we'll have a boot skootin' time Glamping and dancing in Texas.

See y'all in June!!

(No, this isn't the lost bull!→)



Nikki Barrett

If you think you might be at the Camporee and are not signed up, please register to help us plan more effectively for the number of units.

Sandy McIntire and George Ferguson, General Chairpersons, 2026



We've had cows, alligators, and armadillos.
Now George is riding the bull to the 68th International Camporee.

Chapter Campouts

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

December 5 → 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 OR Angela Brown; 352-408-5721;
doramiata62@yahoo.com

Thursday December 11 → December 13, 2025

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

CANCELLED Sunshine RV (Lake Placid) CANCELLED

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

- 2026 -

Thursday January 8 → January 11, 2026

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Buffer Preserve Park

11050 County Rd 512, Fellsmere, FL; 772-663-2301

Please call the campground to make your reservation, then call Tom Biehn to let us know you are coming. Please note this campout was originally scheduled to occur at Highlands Hammock State Park on the same weekend, but the venue has been changed as noted above.

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



January 16 → January 17, 2026

128 Square Wheels: Florida

The Center at Deltona

1640 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., Deltona, FL

See the flyer at

<https://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/index.html>

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell 352-214-5880;

marynut4@gmail.com OR Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 OR Angela Brown;

352-408-5721; doramiata62@yahoo.com

Thursday February 12 → February 15, 2026

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Red Oaks RV Park

5551 SW 18th Terrace, Bushnell, FL; 352-793-7117

Call campground and make your reservation, then call or email Tom Biehn to let him know that you are attending.

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

February 20 → February 21, 2026

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Breezy Oaks RV Park

9683 County Road 671, Bushnell, FL; 352-569-0300

All Rally Rates Subject to Change Due to Inflation; please verify.

Rally rate: \$34. We will use the "Activity Center." Make your own reservations at campground.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell 352-214-5880;

marynut4@gmail.com OR Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 OR Angela Brown;

352-408-5721; doramiata62@yahoo.com

Thursday March 12 → March 15, 2026

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Highlands Hammock State Park

5931 Hammock Rd, Sebring, FL; 772-577-3882

This campout is preregistered, so please call John Ide (353-208-5980 for availability of sites. Please note that the Highlands Hammock location is subject to change due to their on-going renovations.

John Ide 352-208-5980

March 20 → March 21, 2026

128 Square Wheels: Florida

The Springs RV Resort

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

All Rally Rates Subject to Change Due to Inflation; please verify.

They honor Passport America for 3 days at \$28/night; additional days will be at \$56/night. Call campground and pre-register with a deposit.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell 352-214-5880;

marynut4@gmail.com OR Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 OR Angela Brown;

352-408-5721; doramiata62@yahoo.com

Chapter Campouts—continued

(‘Campouts’ continued from page 43)

Thursday April 9 → April 12, 2026

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Wekiva Falls RV Resort

30700 River Road, Sorrento, FL; 352-268-9556 or 352-383-8055

Call campground and make your reservation, then call or email Tom Biehn 757-672-9978; rtb6273@gmail.com to let him know that you are attending.

Tom Biehn; 757-672-9978

April 17 → April 18, 2026

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Stephen Foster Cultural Center State Park

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

11016 Lillian Saunders Drive/ Hwy 41, White Springs, FL

Reservations: 800-326-3521; Rate \$20 but \$10/night for Florida seniors plus \$6.70 reservation fee.

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

OR Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 OR Angela Brown; 352-408-5721;

doramiata62@yahoo.com

May 1 → May 3, 2026

001 Garden State Square Dance Campers: New Jersey/Pennsylvania

White Oak Campground

3156 White Oak Rd, Quarryville, PA; 717-687-6207

Call campground directly and tell them you are with Square Up Campers

Pauline/Ron VandeVrede; 873-343-3152

Thursday May 14 → May 17, 2026

014 Blackhawk Crosstrailers: Illinois

Pilgrims Campground

W7271 County Rd C, Ft. Atkinson, WI; 920-563-8122

PRE-Meeting on 4/29 @ Pizza Ranch in Roscoe, IL starting @ 5:30.

At Pilgrims campout we will also be going to Fireside for dinner/show to see “Hairspray”

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

Thursday May 14 → May 17, 2026

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Bonnet Lake Campgrounds

2825 State Road 17S; Avon Park, FL 33825; 863-385-3700

Call campground and make your reservation, then call or email Tom Biehn to let him know that you are attending.

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

May 15 → May 16, 2026

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Southern Oaks RV Resort

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

All Rally Rates Subject to Change Due to Inflation; please verify.

Rally Rate: \$40; rate also available 2 days prior to and 2 days after rally.

Must make your own reservations at campground.

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

OR Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 OR Angela Brown; 352-408-5721;

doramiaata62@yahoo.com

June 5 → 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

Barbara Connelly; 802-745-7621; bconnelly614@gmail.com

♥♥♥ 2026 Illinois State Square Dance Association Camporee ♥♥♥

Marshall-Putnam Fairgrounds

915 University Ave., Henry, IL

Charlene Fahsbender; 956-532-4503

See registration and information on page 36 of this issue.

June 12 → June 14, 2026

001 Garden State Square Dance Campers: New Jersey/Pennsylvania

Appalachian RV Campground

60 Motel Dr., Shartlesville, PA; 877-570-2267 or 610-488-6319

get form at www.gssdca.wixsite.com/gssdca and submit to Susan

Schwarz, 23 Fir Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Pauline/Ron VandeVrede; 873-343-3152

June 17 → June 19, 2026

♥♥♥ 68th NSDCA International Camporee ♥♥♥

Coushatta Ranch

4019 Clay Ranch Lane, Bellville, TX

Registration is in the centerfold & the flyer is inside the back cover of this issue.

June 24 → June 27, 2026

♥♥♥ 75th National Square Dance Convention ♥♥♥

Various campgrounds

Details at <http://75nsdctx.com/>



('Campouts' continued on page 46)

Chapter Campouts—continued

(‘Campouts’ continued from page 45)

July 17 → July 19, 2026

**001Garden State Square Dance Campers: New Jersey/Pennsylvania
*Appalachian RV Campground***

60 Motel Dr., Shartlesville, PA; 877-570-2267 or 610-488-6319
get form at www.gssdca.wixsite.com/gssdca and submit to Susan
Schwarz, 23 Fir Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Pauline/Ron VandeVrede; 873-343-3152

July 31 → 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
Barbara Connelly; 802-745-7621; bconnelly614@gmail.com

August 7 → August 9, 2026

**001Garden State Square Dance Campers: New Jersey/Pennsylvania
*Appalachian RV Campground***

60 Motel Dr., Shartlesville, PA; 877-570-2267 or 610-488-6319
get form at www.gssdca.wixsite.com/gssdca and submit to Susan
Schwarz, 23 Fir Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Pauline/Ron VandeVrede; 873-343-3152

August 21 → August 22, 2026

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Wekiva Falls RV Resort

30700 River Road, Sorrento, FL; 352-268-9556 or 352-383-8055
All Rally Rates Subject to Change Due to Inflation; please verify.
Notice, our rally reservation is not made yet. We may end up at a new
campground in Crystal River. Stay tuned and check back later.
Must make your own reservations at campground.
Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell 352-214-5880;
marynut4@gmail.com OR Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 OR Angela Brown;
352-408-5721; doramiata62@yahoo.com

September 11 → September 13, 2026

**001Garden State Square Dance Campers: New Jersey/Pennsylvania
*Shady Oaks Family Campground***

40 Round Barn Rd, Newmanstown, PA; 717-949-3177
Call campground directly and tell them you are with the Square Up
Campers
Pauline/Ron VandeVrede; 873-343-3152

September 18 → September 20, 2026

001 Garden State Square Dance Campers: New Jersey/Pennsylvania

Cherry Ridge Campsites

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

Call the campground directly

Pauline/Ron VandeVrede; 873-343-3152

October 23 → October 25, 2026, 2026

♥♥♥ 50th FANSDC Florida State Camporee ♥♥♥

Southern Palms RV Park

1 Avocado Lane, Eustis, FL; 352-357-8882

For more information, see <https://fansdc.net/>

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. And, as mentioned on page 6, if you have a new campground, please let either the webmaster or *TIMES* editor know a few days before you are going to make the entry, so the campground and its associated information can be entered into the database. This ensures consistency of information about the campground is provided, adds a hyperlink to Google Maps for your campground, and makes it easier on the person entering the information as they don't have to enter it all each time you use that venue. 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 last day 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.

- RATES for COMMERCIAL and NON-MEMBER ads:

Full page	\$65.00	Three-Quarter page	\$50.00
Half page	\$35.00	Quarter page	\$20.00

Contact the Editor today to place your ad at these fantastic prices! Questions concerning advertising in the NSDCA *TIMES* should be directed to the Editor.

EDITOR: Ken Shacter

EMAIL: NSDCAtimes@gmail.com

Please visit the NSDCA on the Internet at **www.nsdca.org**

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David Lust and Sharon Schmidt; 121 Fieldstone Dr.; Lodi, WI 53555
(608) 650-5743 ; davidlust@ymail.com

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Barbara Connelly
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(308) 384-8541; Cell:(308) 390-2247; sharamadison@hotmail.com

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(Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas)
Ted & Nancy Kennedy
5430 Grand Bay Wilmer Rd, Grand Bay, AL 36541
(985) 788-2253; nancykennedy211@hotmail.com

SOUTH EAST

(Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, N & S Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and W Virginia)
Jan & Jon Bloodworth
256-508-9331; janb10756@yahoo.com

SOUTH WEST

(Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah)
The Board is seeking a volunteer to fill this position.
Please contact a Board Member (page 47) if you wish to be considered.

ILLINOIS

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

FLORIDA

Dennis & Laura Ramsey; Fleming Island, FL
(904) 269-4405. ramseydp@comcast.net

PENNSYLVANIA

Park & Kathy Bierbower, Shippensburg, PA
(717) 300-5111; scoutguyone@gmail.com

BEWARE!

Computer hackers and their ilk will try to fool you in various ways, all to get your personal information so either you can be impersonated or your savings accounts can be cleaned out.

Any official communication from the NSDCA e-tree will only deal with activities related to the NSDCA, not Amazon or passing along recipes or jokes, etc.

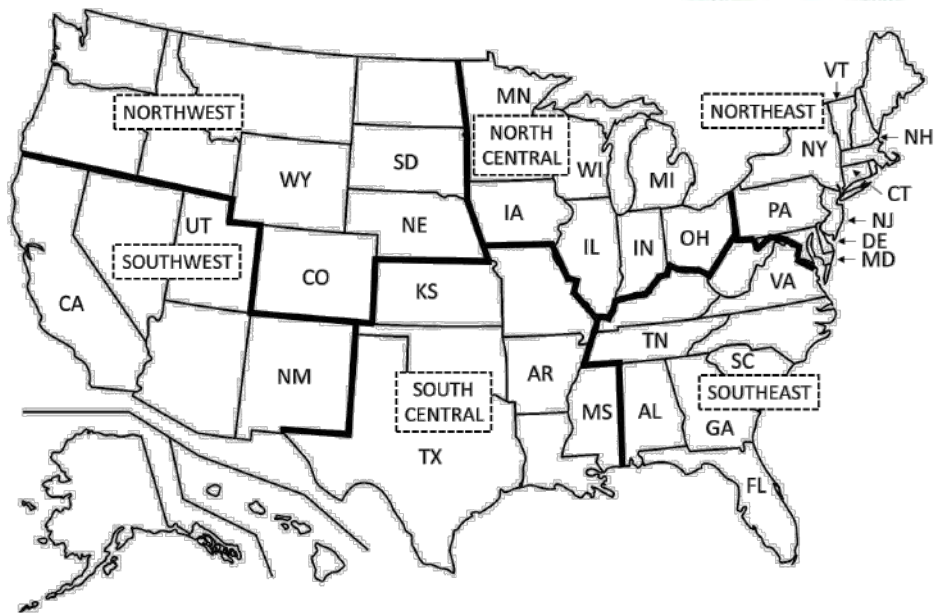
You can safely disregard and delete any e-tree communication that does not deal with an NSDCA-related notification. Also, never reply to the e-tree or click on any links embedded in the e-tree message.

If you have questions about the content of an e-tree message, use the information on the prior page to contact a Board member for further clarification.

Thank you.



States and Provinces listed have an NSDCA Chapter, have Members associated with a Chapter outside their political jurisdiction, or Members-at-Large.



Chapter Representatives

- 001 GARDEN STATE SQUARE DANCE CAMPERS; NJ/PA**
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2022 Coachmen Leprechaun 260DS Review: Part 2

In the Fall 2025 issue of the *TIMES* (Volume 63#4) I started a review of our 2022 Coachmen Leprechaun 260DS. The first installment covered an overview of the RV and provided comments on the dinette area, the cab-over bunkbed, kitchen area, bedroom, bathroom, and curb side entry door. This installment covers the cab of the motorhome, the RV's exterior, and Coachmen's customer service.

Cab

The vehicle's cab is functional but quite utilitarian, unlike our former truck, a 2012 Ford F250 Lariat, which I jokingly described as a Cadillac that looked like a truck. The RV's cab seats are relatively comfortable, but due to the slide behind the driver and the dinette behind the passenger, the seats cannot angle back sufficiently for my taste without being moved quite a way forward on their tracks. The seats do swivel around when you are parked, and there's a small table that fits in the drink holders on the motor's doghouse to provide a place to put drinks or food, but if you are eating while sitting in those seats, you'll have to balance the plate on your lap as the table isn't really wide enough to handle the plates. When the seats are rotated to face the public space of the RV, you will need to put a cushion (provided by Coachmen) on the seat to boost yourself up a little, otherwise your knees will end up in your chin! This is due to the difference in floor level between the cab and the public space of the 'house.'

Ford really blew it when they opted to use a different layout for the cruise control buttons on the steering wheel compared to what they use in the F-series of trucks and in their cars; instead of being in a convenient location where you can get to it without looking (as the old design was quite intuitive by feel) or moving your right hand off the wheel, you now have to move your left hand to the lower side of the steering wheel cross-



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

piece and look (!) to see what button you want to press; after 2½ years I have yet to master by feel the location of the switches, and they are not laid out in what I consider a logical order.

The dash area has two 12-volt outlets, one easily accessible on the dash and the other hidden in the glovebox, with no way that we've found to route a cable out without it being pinched by the glovebox access door. The dash also has a dual USB outlet containing a USB-A and USB-C connector. Our unit came with a CarPlay/Android Auto unit, which also provides a second USB-A connector in the dash and a USB-C connector in the display head. Note that the CarPlay unit we currently have is not the original one that came with the RV; the Coachmen factory changed it out for us to one that interferes less with the vehicle's TPMS. More on this below, and see Volume 62#3 for more details on the CarPlay unit.

The Ford-supplied manual we received is not consistent with operation of the ignition key: the 'accessory' position is not (as the manual states) with the key rotated back towards the driver, but the first position away from the driver. Coachmen (and Ford) have limited items that energize when the key is in the 'accessory' position, which is disappointing. In order to set up the CarPlay unit the key must be in the key's 'start' position; ditto for maneuvering the mirrors or getting power to the 12-volt or USB outlets. An odd feature is that power remains to the 12-volt outlet (but nothing else) for several minutes after turning the engine off.

The side-view mirrors have in-cab remote adjustment capability and are heated to eliminate fogging. They can be manually folded towards the body of the cab to remove the head-bonking hazard they pose by sticking 'out there' when parked. There are side-view cameras mounted on each front fender and a rear-view camera at the back of the RV. Originally these fed the CarPlay unit, but when you signaled a direction change, the CarPlay display showed the camera view and silenced any navigation that was being given, not an ideal situation. Additionally, the rear-view camera only displayed when the RV's transmission was in reverse. As the Ford factory-provided rear-view mirror served absolutely no purpose in this RV, the Coachmen factory swapped it out for us to a video display unit and routed the cameras to it; the rear-view camera is displayed all the time except when the directional is used, then the appropriate side-view camera is displayed. Due to the extended width of the RV's 'house,' the side-view cameras are of limited use (it would have been better if they had been mounted on the mirrors as some other RV manufacturers do); you can only see a car when it is right next to you, and by then it's too late! The driver still has to rely on the side-view mirrors. If the cameras were extended and angled a bit differently, then these might be a real benefit (another task to do!)

Getting in and out of the vehicle through the cab doors is not too much of a challenge: Ford provided a grab handle inside the cab and Coachmen

provided running boards to make it easier to step up. The air conditioner and heater provide a good level of comfort, especially if we hang the curtain that separates the cab from the ‘house’ which provides for a smaller area for the heater or A/C to work in.

The glovebox (which does not lock) is a little on the small side, but has a nice feature to hold the owner’s manual out of the way. As previously mentioned, there’s a 12-volt outlet in the glovebox (but please note we could not find a way to get a cord out of the glovebox without it being kinked by the glovebox’s access panel). There’s additional storage in both cab doors and the bump-out console that protrudes from the doghouse; the console also has three cup holders. The doghouse does impact the ease of moving back and forth between the cab and the ‘house,’ such as when you stop for a break and want to fix a snack to eat; we typically exit through the cab doors and enter the RV using the curb side door unless it is raining. I do not suggest a passenger attempt to leave the cab and move to the back while the vehicle is in motion.

The chassis, as delivered from Ford, has a TPMS unit that monitors all six tires. The display (one of the multiple ‘pages’ that shows by the speedometer) indicates the numeric pressure (but not temperature) for each tire. It’s not the easiest display to maneuver to while driving, but it can be done. The display can also show two different trip meters, engine run/idle time, and other parameters of interest. The TPMS uses a wireless technology for the sensors in the tires to communicate with the display. This setup appears fraught with issues for some reason in the E450 chassis; we’ve never had any issues with other vehicles (car or truck) dealing with a lack of communication then throwing an alarm, but it happens quite frequently with our unit. Ford won’t touch this issue as they point the finger at the RV manufacturer’s modifications. The Coachmen factory says the issue lies with the CarPlay device (they provided); it interferes with the signal at times sent by the tire sensor. It can be quite unnerving when the alarm goes off; you don’t know if there’s a real problem or just a communication issue. The factory replaced the original unit (a Chameleon X-10) with a Boss BE10ACP.X (yes, that’s the model number!) and false alarms via lost communication have been reduced, but still have not been eliminated.

Exterior

The driver’s side of the RV (focusing on the house and not the cab) has both slides, the 120-volt, 30-amp shore power cord connector, access hatches for the 4,000-watt Onan generator and 68-pound (~16 gallon) LP storage tank, the cable TV connector, a lockable small storage area, the potable water and black tank flush connections, a hand-held shower wand and a large storage area (more on this later) which is located below the bedroom. The controllers for the slides are mounted within each of the

aforementioned storage areas. The sewer connector and the gate valves for the gray and black tanks are located towards the rear of the RV, underneath where the large storage area door opens.

The water connection area is something new to us. We are used to having separate connectors mounted on the side of the RV along with a gravity-feed tube for the freshwater tank. The Leprechaun has these connectors contained in a small area behind a lockable cover. There's a cut-out in the cover (that can be closed off during travel) where the potable water hose passes through into its connector. Above the potable connector is a valve that either directs the water straight into the RV's piping (which relies on the supplied pressure to provide water) or into the 50-gallon fresh water storage tank (where the RV's water pump pressure provides the water). There's a tiny switch that illuminates when toggled, which (I suspect) is to provide a little light to help you hook up the water if you are setting up in the dark, however it's not much good for anything else. There's also a remote water pump switch that energizes the pump (to be used for winterization) but it is not a three-way switch, so you can't turn the pump off with the switch inside the RV – you have to come back outside and toggle it off. The black tank flush is located to the left of the potable water connection; this would normally only be connected when you are emptying the black tank, otherwise you couldn't close and lock the cover door. One thing that surprised me was the color-coding for the hose connections: black for the potable water and white for the black tank flush; I thought the colors would have been reversed. The manufacturer's manual even indicates the colors should be white for potable and black for rinse, but that's not the way the unit was built.

At the rear of the RV is a roof-access ladder, the backup camera, another access hatch (which also is to the large storage area mentioned above), the usual 4-inch rectangular bumper for storing your sewer hose, and a 2-inch Class 3 hitch receiver with a 7-pin connector adjacent to it. The hitch receiver is rated at 7,500 pounds (towing) or 750 pounds vertical load. I was disappointed there wasn't a standard 4-pin connector; to use our tow dolly I had to get a 7-pin to 4-pin adapter (which, of course, never stays fully seated and continually has to be checked).

The curb (passenger) side of the RV has three small lockable storage areas (one which contained another TV and radio/sound bar), a solar power jack (there's another on the roof, and as I don't have solar panels I cannot comment on it further), an exhaust port for the furnace, access panel for the water heater, the 18-foot electrically-operated awning (which has LED strip lighting) and the house access door. There's another gate valve towards the rear of the RV that is for the black tank; this prevents the pipe that connects the black tank to the driver side outlet from filling up with solids as both 31-gallon waste tanks are mounted on the curb side of the RV. When emptying the black tank, I first open the

('Leprechaun' continued on page 58)

gate valve on the driver’s side, then I open the gate valve on the curb side. I then cycle the curb side gate valve open and closed as I use the black tank flush to clean out the tank.

Our model has a total of 60 cubic feet of basement storage, which was one of the selling points for the unit. Other manufacturers with nearly identical floor plans had either 45 cubic feet or 30 cubic feet of basement storage; as we were giving up an 8-foot truck bed, a large basement storage area was desired. The storage locks originally used 751 keys, which as you may know, is the most common one on RVs. Since I didn’t want everyone to have access to the storage areas, I swapped the locks out for barrel locks. I’m fairly certain the keys for those locks are not unique, but they certainly are less common. The large storage area discussed above is made of an extremely heavy-duty plastic (Coachmen calls it Roto-cast). There are two drain holes in the floor of the Roto-cast structure to eliminate any accumulated liquid that might result from leakage of something you store in that area. For night use, the storage area can be illuminated by an LED light (with the power switch located inside the curb side door!); it does a satisfactory job. The access panel for the low-point drains is also in this area, but it is extremely challenging to manipulate the three valves (hot line, cold line and fresh water tank) as you have to twist your arm in an uncomfortable direction (plus it’s hard to locate the valves by feel; you can’t see them). A larger access door to the valves may have made it easier to reach and operate them. The other storage areas are heavy-gauge metal, but there are no drain holes in them.

As there are 120-volt, 12-volt and 5-volt outlets nearby in the bedroom (the large storage area is under the bed and surrounding floor), it would have been beneficial to have outlets for these in the large storage area also (again, something else to do!) The access hatch for the large storage area has its hinges at the bottom of the hatch so the door swings out and down. I would have preferred it to have the hinges at the left side so door swung out; some of Coachmen’s other models do have this arrangement, so I’m not sure why it was not done on our model. When the bedroom slide is extended, it is difficult to rummage around in that storage area.

Customer Service

As stated in previous issues (see Volumes 62#1, 62#3 and 63#1) we’ve had a few challenges with our RV; it was built during the peak of the COVID shutdown – and while this is not justification for the dealer appropriating items from our RV to use in other units or an excuse for Coachmen’s lack of quality control in the build, it is a reason we had the problems we did. In Coachmen’s defense, we were extremely impressed with their customer service and concern to get our issues remedied. Yes, it required a trip (well, two trips) to the factory in Middlebury, IN, but the trips were well worth it. I won’t rehash the issues we had with the RV or

the amount of work done by Coachmen (see the aforementioned past issues), but let's just say that we've had various 'challenges' with all of our prior RVs, and were never treated as well or had the work done without a lot of pushbacks from those other RV vendors (Coachmen just did as we asked without question). I'm not sure if it's this way across the Forest River product line, but I can say we are very happy with the Coachmen factory.

Conclusions

There's no perfect RV; compromise is always in the cards. In general, I feel that Coachmen did a reasonably good job designing the RV, with the exceptions noted in this article. Last summer we lived in the RV for 12 continuous weeks – something it was not really designed for – and managed just fine. The floorplan works well for two for an extended road trip, but in spite of the additional seating capacity at the dinette and jack-knife couch, I don't think this particular model would be the best for a many-week trip with other adults or children. However, this RV is perfect for our present needs! To summarize:

Things we like:

- Drivability and fuel efficiency
- Functional, efficient bathroom
- General kitchen layout
- Reasonably large 12-volt refrigerator
- Large-cavity convection microwave
- Lots of 120-volt outlets
- A decent number of 5-volt outlets
- Winegard wi-fi booster
- Large basement storage capacity
- Decent inside storage capacity
- Pull-out shelf in bathroom
- Automatic power management for air conditioners operating on a 30-amp shore power circuit
- Hydraulic auto-leveling system

Things we'd like to change:

- Cross-ventilation capability in bedroom
- A Fantastic Fan in the bathroom
- An oven with a usable cavity size (or remove it and provide additional storage instead)
- A 120-volt, 12-volt and 5-volt outlet on the far side of the bed
- A 120-volt and 12-volt outlet in large basement storage area
- A means to configure a comfortable cab seatback angle without having to move the seat considerably forward
- Two under-cabinet bed lights with individual switches
- Ford should reconsider their layout and placement of the cruise control buttons on the steering wheel

('Leprechaun' continued on page 60)

('Leprechaun' continued from page 59)

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.

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A Member's thoughts on 'Afterthoughts'

Ken:

I really like the idea of funny campground signs you included in the Sept-Nov, 2025 issue. I can imagine, if you open up the scope for the signs, people will send you pictures of all kinds of interesting signs they've encountered in their camping travels.

To that end, since the mascot for the 68th NSDCA International Camporee is a bull, I got the attached sign off the internet and thought I'd send it along.



A variation on this I also found is:
"THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES."

Regards, Jim Sebesta

AFTERTHOUGHTS

Here's another of our favorite campground signs. On one of our trips to the Coachmen factory to have some work remedied on our RV, we stayed at the YellowHammer RV Campground in Clanton, AL (and, yes, it's one word). The park is unadorned by trees (although it is surrounded by them on three sides) and is predominantly gravel roads and sites with some grass between the sites, but it is convenient to the Interstate, and most importantly, it was surprisingly quiet. They had a very nice bathhouse, where this sign was posted. As you can tell, your stay at the campground can be free if you decide to use their shower facilities!

Send your photo of an interesting sign sighted on your travels (as suggested by Jim above) to NSDCAtimes@gmail.com. Please be sure to identify the location and, if a campground, provide a brief write-up of the facility.

Thank you.

Your NSDCA Editor



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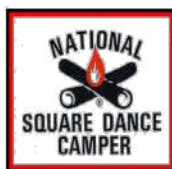
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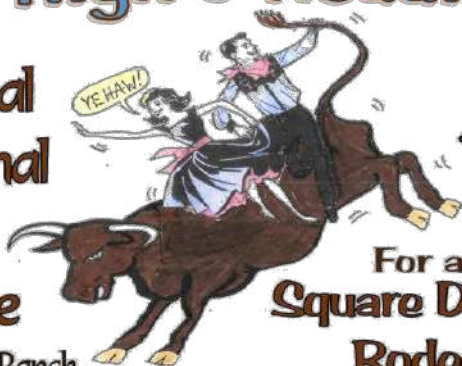
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