

NSDCA



TIMES

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**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**
NSDCA, INC., P.O. Box 241, Butler, WI 53007-9998



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2026 Texas Camporee



Thursday's 250th
Birthday Party



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please complete the *TIMES* survey

Only three
questions!

The Board is looking for your feedback! There is a proposal before the Board to discontinue the printed edition of the *TIMES* and only provide a digital version, viewable on your computer or phone. This is a cost-saving measure, as postage rates are literally going through the roof. Bulk postage rates have increased from 17.6¢/oz. to 23.5¢/oz. over the past decade (and have gone up again), yet NSDCA dues have not changed while membership has decreased.

Three questions are posed:

1. Would you like the NSDCA Board to provide the *TIMES* newsletter in a digital versus printed format?
2. Would you like an option for either Electronic distribution or Printed and Mailed distribution of the *TIMES* newsletter with your membership application/renewal?
3. If given the option for Electronic or Printed and you select Printed, would you be willing to pay an additional amount to cover printing and mailing expenses?

Use the QR code (below right) or go to <https://nsdca.org> and click on the link (example, below left). Thank you!

It's survey time again!

[Click here to provide your thoughts.](#)

This will help us plan future delivery options for the *TIMES* newsletter: all-digital or print & digital.



FORETHOUGHTS

Ah, the best laid plans of mice and men!
We had our route planned (which included visiting friends and family along the way) and knew which campgrounds we were going to stay. We were even going to meet up with some Jacksonville square-dancing friends at a campground in Louisiana and caravan the last leg of the trip to the 2026 International Camporee. We were then going to head to Maine after the Camporee, but life always intervenes and one doesn't always get one's way.



Three weeks before our intended departure, on a weekend (always!) my wife Carolyn became ill with something that resulted in elevated body temperatures and a general feeling of malaise and a dry cough. She got in

(*'Forethoughts'* continued on page 51)



Roy Huddleston & Priscilla Newton



Hello fellow campers!
I would like to thank all of our Camporee attendees for joining us in Bellville; please let us know how much you enjoyed the camaraderie and atmosphere.

At the General Meeting new members were elected to the Board: John & Katharina Harden; they are Vice President, and with the retirement of John & Dolly Ide, Priscilla and I have moved up to President.

We want to thank George Ferguson, Sandy McIntire, and Joey & Nikki Barrett for chairing this year's Camporee. After the Camporee, Joey was at another event and had a cardiac event; he was airlifted to the hospital. Nicky & Joey are asking for your prayers.

The Board wants to thank the Callers, Cuers and Line Instructors: Bob Asp, George Ferguson, Julian Godsey, Mike Gormley, John & Nathaniel Harden, Denise Hopkins, Tom & Kathy Nickel, Kathi Sawyer and Susan Wolford, for their time and the entertainment they provided. And a special thanks to Don Wolford for carrying and working the games for us.

This Camporee would not be possible without our attending members and those identified immediately above; a big thanks to all of you. Due to the success of the Camporee, we have some members showing interest in starting a new Chapter in Texas.

The 2027 Camporee will be held July 8 to 10, 2027 in Lebanon, TN. Please sign up for a lot of fun, games and square dancing. There is a registration form in the centerfold of this issue, and as always, you can find one online at the NSDCA website. All veterans attending the 2027 Camporee that have not received a Quilt of Valor please send your information to Dolly Ide at dloutz9504@outlook.com or 352-598-7162 ASAP; she has to contact your state to make it for you. Thanks.

Priscilla and I had a good two-day trip to the Camporee in Bellville, TX, but not the five-day return trip home to Alabama; we experienced low tire air pressure three times and then had a blowout in Texas, and had another two low tire pressure events followed by a blowout and a sidewall bulge on tires in Louisiana, all before getting back to Alabama. However, in spite of those challenges, we did make it home safely!

God bless all of our members.

Happy Trails from *Roy and Priscilla*



John & Katharina Harden



Greetings from Illinois and from the road! We're finally recovering after three weeks of driving and camping around Texas, attending the 68th NSDCA International Camporee in Belleville, TX, the 75th National Square Dance Convention in Waco, TX, several Six Flags parks in Texas, on the way home visiting family and friends who live in Texas, and lots and lots and LOTS of driving. We got back home to chase kids to two different summer camps (with kayaking and fishing), catch up on work, and attend the 40th Illinois Square and Round Dance Convention. (Whew! Just writing all that made me tired!!) While at the Camporee, John got himself in trouble... by agreeing to let us run for the Board of Directors (he claims temporary insanity). We are now your new NSDCA Board Vice President. Yep, at some point John might be allowed to sleep in the camper again, instead of underneath it.

About us: we can honestly say that much of our lives revolve around square dancing. We met at church where Katharina and family introduced John to square dancing in 2006, and we have been sharing that ever since! We've been married for 17 years and counting.



We are members of the Call & Caper Square Dance Club in Downers Grove, IL and Petunia City Square Dance Club in Beloit, WI.

('VP' continued on page 56)



Tricia & Neal Chartier



Neal and I had a blast camping and dancing at this year's Camporee in Bellville, Texas! It was wonderful catching up with old friends and making some new ones. **I even won first place in bocce ball!** It was hotter than blue blazes, but we still had a fantastic time.

A huge thank you to Sandy McIntire, George Ferguson, and Nikki & Joey Barrett, who did an amazing job as this year's chairpersons. They worked so hard to make everything a success. I have to admit, I was thrilled not to be in charge this year!

Janet Jonas and I got up early every morning to make donuts. Ironically we both have gluten issues, so we couldn't even eat them! And anyone who knows us knows that we are definitely **not** early morning people.

I also prepared the meal before our Annual Meeting for everyone. It brought back a lot of memories, since my degree from Michigan State University is in Hotel, Restaurant, and Hospitality Business Management, and I spent many years working in the restaurant industry. I was so thankful for all the wonderful helpers who jumped right in to make everything come together.

After the Camporee, Neal and I headed to Waco for the National Square Dance Convention. We had a great time and loved seeing so many friends and Callers who have become like family over the years.

On a more personal note, it has now been seven months since we lost our home and our beloved Colby. We finally received approval on July 23rd to begin rebuilding our house. On July 28th we met with Braedon, who has worked tirelessly with our insurance company to help us secure the funds to rebuild. The very next day, work began with replacing the roof so they could seal up the house. We are so excited that things are finally moving forward.

One piece of advice we want to share with everyone: **Make sure you have replacement cost insurance.** Take a complete inventory of everything in your home. A video walkthrough is a great way to document what you own. I'm currently trying to inventory my kitchen, and it's amazing how hard it is to remember everything that was there.

Also, scan your photographs. We lost our wedding photos and many irreplaceable family pictures that were never saved digitally. Make sure

('Secretary' continued on page 57)



Susan & Don Wolford



We had a wonderful time at the 68th International Camporee in Bellville, Texas. We renewed old friendships and made new ones, both on and off the dance floor. The weather was warm but the facility was cool. The facility worked well for crafts, potlucks, games and dancing. Thank you to all those who volunteered to lead the dancing fun. The Coushatta Ranch personnel were great and worked very quickly when asked to do anything. We enjoyed the potlucks. Many campers participated in the games activities, even in the heat. The fellowship was wonderful and we missed those of you who were unable to attend.

Don and I left Bellville with a stop in Waco for the National Convention. From there we went to Denver, Colorado; Yellowstone; Big Timber, Montana; Lolo, Montana and then on to Hampton, Illinois where we camped and attended the Illinois State Square & Round Dance Convention. It's funny that three of the NSDCA Board members met to dance there. It was a great dance! As I write this, Don and I are still on the road. We will be home by the end of July.

Now is the time for everyone to start making plans to attend the 69th International Camporee in Lebanon, Tennessee. We already have 17 rigs registered for 2027 Camporee. The updated 69th NSDCA registration is now available on the nsdca.org website and in the centerfold of this issue.

Through the 68th Camporee in Bellville, Texas, we were running a special where anyone who became a new member to NSDCA would receive either a pin badge for free or they could get a magnetic badge for \$3.00. The Board recently voted to discontinue this offer; all pin badges will cost \$15.00 and all magnetic badges will also cost \$15.00. All forms on the nsdca.org website reflect this amount.

If you know some dancers, who are campers as well, talk to them about joining your Chapter and then attending the 69th International Camporee in Lebanon, Tennessee. Hope to see you there.

Don & Susan



Kathy Nickel

Membership Secretary



Hi, everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying summer. It seems to be a shorter season every year. It was nice to see all of you that attended the Camporee in Texas this year. If you were unable to join us this year, please try to attend next year as we had such a great time. The 2027 Camporee will be in Lebanon, TN on July 8-10, 2027.

While traveling back home from this year's Camporee, we stopped at Nashville, TN and attended the Grand Ole Opry; that was a very enjoyable show. So, if you can extend your vacation time after the Camporee trip next summer, it is a great show to go see.

After two weeks from getting home from our Camporee/Nashville trip, we took off for a family vacation in Northern Wisconsin at the Wisconsin Peninsula State Park. This has been a family tradition since our kids were all little. Well, it wasn't quite as good this year. About half-way to our destination, our camper caught on fire and we lost everything. Luckily, we got our truck unattached from the trailer and we were all able to get away without anyone getting hurt. We had so many nice people stop and offer us water to drink and help. We were pulling a Jayco 30-foot travel trailer, and it was a really hot day. We have no idea as to what happened, but it makes you stop and think that when you are traveling, you should keep some things out of the camper. We ended up with just what we had in the back of our truck, which mainly were coolers and some camping gear; everything else was burned up. Walmart was our best friend for two weeks. Our daughter's family was going to be camping with us, and they had a trailer and tents, so they graciously took us in for a week, and then we were able to borrow a friend's trailer for the second week. You never imagine something like that happening to you; it was quite an experience.

I am starting to get caught up on membership information from the Camporee. It's time to start thinking about 2027 Renewals. Remember dues are to be paid by the end of December; this really helps the Board know the number of members for insurance purposes. With the cost of postage going up, if you could send your Renewals in as a Chapter this would really help cut costs for you and us. Also, don't forget to update your Chapter Officers and your Winter addresses.

Happy camping, and dancing!

Kathy Nickel, Membership Secretary

State & Area Representatives' Reports

Illinois State Representative

Seems like summer and camping season in Illinois just began and now we're approaching the end of camping for those of us where the winters are cold while it's just the beginning of the camping season for those with warmer winters. But before we think about where the camping season is or will be, I need to bring you up to date about the Illinois State Camporee.

The camporee was held early in June at the Marshall Putnam County Fairgrounds in Henry, Illinois and was hosted by Chapter 123, Swing-N-Travelers. Attendance was low as there were too many graduations, weddings and parties keeping many away. However, those who attended enjoyed the event. As usual, there was dancing - starting with the Trail-In Dance on Friday evening; there were games on Saturday, and Marge Nightingale presented several crafts. Gift bags were prepared by Shari Millard. Callers included Bob Asp, Kathi Sawyer, Mike Gormley, and Don Seaman. John Hand cued for round dancing. There was the usual Bean Bag "tournament." In the 1st round it was Joe Sawyer (#014) & Bob Asp (#014) winning over Alice Richmond (#196) & Dave Brunn (#123) while in another match it was Mary Brunn (#123) & Kerry Richmond (#196) winning over Kathi Sawyer (#014) & Chet Bowman (#123). Unfortunately, in the final round Mary Brunn & Kerry Richmond lost a close game against Bob Asp & Joe Sawyer. In the report I received there was no mention of Washer Toss. However, apparently with no skill involved, most participated in the game they call Camping Bingo. It seems like the ladies had the edge here with Liz Hand (#123), Mary Brunn (#123), Penny Dawson (guest), Dale Dehi (#014) and Bob Asp (#014) winning games. Many thanks to Chapter 123 for hosting.

At the annual State meeting the low attendance made the election of officers difficult. The office of President is currently empty, so Vice President John Hand is temporally the acting President. All other offices remain unchanged. Dan & Marian Hatfield were thanked for their six (6) years serving as President.

Soon in Illinois camping season will be ending and campers will be getting ready to think about winter plans.

Ruthann Sanders; RSRN4@aol.com

('Representative' continued on page 51)



► **TIMES Survey input to the NSDCA Board** ◀

As noted at the top of page 4, the Board is requesting your input regarding either eliminating the printed issue of the *TIMES* and going all digital or a variation on that theme. To let the Board know how you feel about this subject, *please* respond to the survey; the link is provided below if you don't wish to use the link on the home page of the NSDCA website. A QR code (to scan with your phone) is also provided. The survey will close on October 31. Please don't let the Board reach a decision in a vacuum—let them know what you think. Thank you.

<https://forms.gle/iWLNax1pwvTS78jH9>



An Update on Joey Barrett

Nikki & Joey Barrett served as the co-chairs for this year's Camporee in Bellville, TX. During the Camporee, and later at Nationals in Waco, Joey wasn't feeling well.

After leaving Waco, Nikki and Joey traveled to Mineral Wells, TX, to go camping with friends from their camping group. While everyone was standing in line for dinner, Joey suddenly collapsed. Thankfully, a nurse who was also waiting in line immediately began CPR and saved his life.

Joey was taken to the local hospital before being airlifted to Fort Worth. He suffered cardiac arrest and was placed in a medically induced coma for nine days. After that, he was moved from the ICU to a hospital room, where he remained for another two and a half weeks.

Joey is now at a rehabilitation facility in Arlington, TX, working hard to regain his strength and hoping to return home soon.

Encouragingly, he is finally getting his appetite back.

While Joey has been recovering, Nikki arranged for a friend to drive their fifth-wheel camper home and park it in their yard. She has spent nearly every day by Joey's side throughout this difficult journey.

Nikki remains hopeful, though understandably exhausted, and Joey continues to make steady progress. Please keep them both in your thoughts and prayers as he continues his recovery.

Tricia Chartier





001 Garden State Square Dance Campers; New Jersey

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



We started our season with our first Raid at the Middle-



ton Ramblers in March (↑). All had a great time; can't wait to do more Raids! The club's first campout was in May with the Square-Up Campers (#106) at White Oaks Campground in Quarryville, PA. On the first weekend in June some of the club attended the Mark Franks weekend at



the Cherry Ridge campground in Honesdale, PA. We had a great time and we're looking forward to our next Cherry Ridge campout in September. In June and July, we camped at Appalachian RV Resort in Shartlesville, PA. Some of our Chapter stayed in cabins or even in a Quality Inn that is only 10 miles away from the campground. Our caller was Dave Black and we learned new Plus calls during our Saturday morning workshop: Scoot and Dodge, Quarter Thru, Three-Quarter Thru, Pass the Sea, Partner Tag and Partner Hinge. Everyone had a lot of fun and added an extra half hour to the workshop. On Saturday afternoon, we played games in the hall: Mexican Train, Skip Bo, learned to play Sky Jo and a new card game. Saturday night we had a square of all woman dancers; it was very cool to see. Good job ladies!

Ron always makes a fire after our dancing; a little rain doesn't stop a good time.

In August we will go back to Appalachian with Mark Franks calling. In September we will once again join our friends from Square-Up Campers (#106), this time at the Shady Oaks Family Campground in Newmantown, PA.

See our schedule on our website on the NSDCA website, in this issue of the *TIMES*, and at our website at <https://gssdca.wixsite.com/gssdca>. 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!

Pauline Vande Vrede; gssdca@gmail.com; 973-343-3152

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

Tammy Signorino; tammysignorino@gmail.com; 732-552-7722

002 Pine Tree; Wisconsin

We are so excited that **John & Katharina Harden** have stepped up to serve as our Association's new Vice Presidents! Congratulations to them on taking on this important leadership role. It makes this even more special because they are members of **Pine Tree Campers**, and we couldn't be prouder. Wishing them all the best as they begin this exciting new chapter!



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



Chats

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014 Blackhawk Crosstrailers; Illinois

Some of our Chapter members attended the NSDCA International Camporee in Bellville, TX in June (↓). The next time our



Chapter gathered was at the Big Rock Campground (↓). On that Saturday, our group car-pooled to Medinah, IL where Bob was calling for the

Beach Party fundraiser for the IL Convention (↓). We returned to the campground just in time for the night time square dance and bonfire. It was



just wonderful to have a number of visitors come to dance during our campout. We took a poll and it looks like we'll be having a great turnout at the Rustic Barn in Kieler, WI from August 13th to the 16th; we have a lovely air-conditioned hall for potluck night and dancing. Non-dancing

campers also have a great time watching, too!

Martha Schapals; wmpabilywm@gmail.com

106 Square Up Campers; Pennsylvania

In front of the cozy fireplace at White Oak Campground in south central Pennsylvania (next page, top) are Ron, Kathy, Betty, Marti, Judy and Sue, warming up before the dance. The beginning of May can be chilly, so the Poplar embers brought by John Hess from his Lan-





caster area farm did the trick to warm us up. We were ready to dance!

Fast forward to the beginning of June, when temperatures start to rise and a sun-protective hat can be worn. Square Ups then camp at Paradise Stream Campground, north of Harrisburg, PA. Pictured in front of a fun-to-ride golf cart (→) are driver/Caller Bob along with his pooches Cozi and Jaz. Park and Kathy have their new puppy Cally for her first campout and golf cart ride in the back seat. The lake behind is stocked with fish and is quite popular. Why not join the Square Ups one weekend for dancing, eating and having fun?



Kathy Engel; kengel229@gmail.com

116 Camping Squares; Kansas

We've been having a fun summer this year. We even had a get-together in Wichita in June, since a lot of us were unable to attend the Nationals.

Our July campout was at Cheney Reservoir and we had a great time.

As I write this, we are looking forward to our August campout at Kanopolis Lake; it should be fun. In late September we will be camping at Fall River Lake below the dam. We will be having a Lake Party at a fellow square dancer's cabin at the lake. It will definitely be a lot of fun! We have our last campout of the season (weather permitting) on October 15-18 at Lake Afton in Goddard, KS, on the west side of the lake. In November we will start our winter parties in the Wichita area.

All of our campouts may be found on the NSDCA website and in the back of this newsletter. 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

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Chats

('Chats' continued from page 15)

information, please contact Marty & Frank Golden at 316-943-4137 or fmgolden9515@sbcglobal.net.

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

119 Wander Yonders; Wyoming

Greetings from Wyoming! Our weather has not promoted camping as we are in a severe drought! This has not stopped the dancing as on Memorial Day weekend; our club held a dance at the Quadra Dangle Club in Laramie where camping sites were available. Dave Guille and Lynn Strobel were the Callers and Steve Kline was the Cuer.



The Quadra Dangle Club is a historical site built by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) in 1928 as an athletic club for their employees and Laramie residents. In 1949 the UPRR sold the building to four couples (who enjoyed square dancing and comprised the Quadra Dangle Society)



with the stipulation they had to maintain the building for “clean recreation by prohibiting drinking and rowdyism.” The Quadra Dangle members made loans to the Society in order to purchase the building and land, in several cases by mortgaging their own homes. The four couples opened it up to square dancers within the area.

The Quadra Dangle Society continues to own the Gray's Gable building (named in honor of the UPRR president, Carl Gray) today. Eighty acres were sold to provide funds for maintaining the clubhouse. In 1965 their golf course, located right across the street from the club, was passed to the University of Wyoming. The large central area of the Quadra Dangle building (→) has no need for internal supports, as the beams are joined by iron bolts manufactured at the Union Pacific machine shop. In 1977 the road in front of the



Club was being extended and a rock was uprooted by the blasting and fell through the roof, penetrating the dance floor and falling into the basement; as such, a small portion of the thick, polished maple floor has been repaired near the center of the room.

Our club supported the Colorado State Square Dancing Convention held on June 12-13. To promote square dancing, Dave Guille opened the Prairie Promenders clubhouse for Jerry Junck to hold classes for six new/beginning Callers, with the Wander Yonders helping supply couples to dance to the new Callers as they learned new skills. The Callers not only learned, but the couples learned about what the Callers have to consider.

By the time you read this, the Wander Yonders will have participated in the Glenrock Rendezvous in Glenrock, WY. The Glenrock Rendezvous is like a small fair. There are number of historic RVs (a.k.a. sheep wagons) on display, where you can see how sheepherders lived tending the large herd of sheep. Traditional Dutch Oven cooking is done and you can sample a breakfast and dinner on Saturday. There are sheepdog trials whereby whistles, hand gestures or verbal commands to Border Collies drive sheep through a number of gates to a final penning. Children can do mutton bustin' or participate in a petting zoo. There are a number of vendors who sell their handmade wares. On Friday a square dance demonstration is done for a couple of hours and onlookers are encouraged to participate. Music and cowboy poetry is scheduled on Friday and Saturday nights. On Sunday the local pastor does services on horseback, whether it is raining or the sun is shining. It is free to come and see; donations can be made for meals. It is held in the city park with lots of shade from the tall cottonwood trees. Maybe you can come visit for next year's Rendezvous; camping is available in Glenwood. In the interim, we are looking forward to the rest of summer and hoping we get rain!!

Our Chapter contacts are Leo & Diana Fergel; they may be reached at 307-635-7312.

Dorothy Ailes, Historian; Dlailes@yahoo.com

123 Swing-N-Travelers; Illinois

What a busy start to our campouts this year with our usual Memorial weekend campout in Henry, IL, and then the Illinois State Camporee two weeks later, once again at the Marshal-Putnam Fairgrounds. With 12 rigs and around 23 or so people at State, we had a pretty good weekend hosting. Bob Asp, Kathi Sawyer, Mike Gormley and Don Seaman were our callers that weekend. Everyone seemed to enjoy the games and the crafts done by Margie Nightingale and Bill & Kathy Baker. Along with the fun and dancing, we gorged on a great meal on Friday night, Saturday for our potluck dinner, and breakfast before heading out on Sunday with the Bakers and Bowmans getting some of the food together. Thanks to the Hands for making sure





Chats

('Chats' continued from page 17)

everyone was taken care of during those few days. This host ended up sticking around the park too long, so a rainstorm hit before we could get out of there; thankful everyone else had left. For some of us, just being together is a great time.

We canceled our campout for July because of a conflict and decided to do a campout in August instead of the trip we had in-the-making. With recent deaths in the past several years and many surgeries for others, it is hard to find those who can host each time. Fortunately, we can encourage each other with our fire chats at almost every campout. Those times seem to be the best to give each other a boost.

Until next time for Chats, I am looking forward to seeing my friends and others at our campouts. Hope you can join us, too.

Chet & Janet Bowman; cabjb2@gmail.com

152 Campers & Dancers; Alabama

We are in the midst of high camping season here in Alabama, with two Alabama campouts and one Georgia campout already completed this year and additional camping and dancing events scheduled every month all the way through November, 2026. All our monthly club camping events for 2026 are listed in this issue of the NSDCA *TIMES* and online at the NSDCA website. We love having visitors!



Our February outing was held at Little Mountain Marina on the shore of Lake Guntersville, AL; social activities in addition to dancing included eagle watching, pontoon boat rides, and of course eating at some of the area's best restaurants. Thanks to Kevin Cozad, one of our club members, for being our Caller.

In March we traveled to Roaring Pines Campground in Somerville, AL where we meet twice yearly – in March and November, in a private setting – with the campground all to ourselves. As is our usual custom while in this area, we enjoyed visiting and dancing with the 8'ers from Decatur on Friday evening. On Saturday evening, we held our club dance with Skip Cleland calling.

The month of April is a beautiful time of year in the southeastern U.S. We had spectacular weather while camping at Coosa River Campground at Lock and Dam Park in Rome, GA. We were busy all weekend sight-seeing, dining, dancing, and saluting our veterans in a special ceremony. We toured the Chieftains Museum and home of Major Ridge, one of the prominent Cherokee traders in the early 1800s. In addition to our club

dance with caller Skip Cleland, we visited and danced with the Cherokee Promenaders in Calhoun, GA and the Western Promenaders in Rome. We also appreciated the opportunity to use the Western Promenaders' square dance barn for our luncheon and tribute to veterans as well as our club dance. That was a lot of dancing packed into one weekend! This was our first time camping and dancing in this area, and we are looking forward to returning in the future.

By the time this issue of NSDCA *TIMES* is published, we will have held our 40th Anniversary dance and campout at Oak Mountain State in Pelham, AL and some of our club members will have attended the International Camporee in Texas.

For those stalwart souls who felt the need for more convention dancing this summer after June's Camporee and the NSDC in Texas, they joined some of our members at August's Tennessee State Square Dance Convention in Gatlinburg and for our August campout held in conjunction with the Alabama State Square Dance Convention in Oxford, AL. We hosted a table at the TN State Convention with some printed materials and information about the NSDCA and Campers and Dancers #152 to inform potential new members about the NSDCA and our club. We even got a new member to sign up!

See the listings in this issue of NSDCA *TIMES* (or online at the NSDCA website) for details of our future campouts. Anyone who is interested in learning more about Campers and Dancers, visiting one of our campouts or joining our local Chapter #152 should contact Ken Waites by telephone at 205-601-2485 or email at waiteskb@yahoo.com.

Ken Waites; waiteskb@yahoo.com; 205-601-2485

193 Florida RoadRunner Squares; Florida

Hello Friends! Greetings to everyone. I hope your summer is going well; I can hardly believe that the end of July is here and I am writing the Fall Campfire Chat for this September issue. Oh, how quickly the days do slip by.

Did you make it to the Texas Camporee this year? What a great Camporee George & Sandy (who became





Chats

(‘Chats’ continued from page 19)

Road Runner members early in 2025) and Joey and Nikki of a Texas Chapter (which is in the infancy stages of being formed) put together for all of us. Although it was not big in attendance, it certainly was big in fun. We began with a 250th Birthday celebration for our great country – lots of red, white & blue colors were seen everywhere as you can see from the group picture (↓). The awesome music, great dancing, fun crafts and games were the rule, and kept most of the group very busy. The little city of Belleville and its attractions were a delight! John and I especially



enjoyed the Belleville Meat Market with their unbelievable variety of meats, sausages, and cheeses (and free samples) along with some delicious barbeque. I tried to pack as much as possible into my little camper freezer.

If you got up early each day and headed to the ‘Coffee & Chat Time with the BOD’ in the clubhouse, you were treated to delicious homemade donuts every morning along with some great discussion time with our NSDCA family members. A slushy-machine appeared and produced surprising treats for us during the day, and we enjoyed great potluck dinners every night. Roy’s homemade cherry-flavored ice cream was as always quite yummy. There is no denying – as you all know – we square dancers try not to miss any opportunity to enjoy the great cooking talents of all our members, and I love getting together for dinner each night around the table. I also must applaud Mike Gormley (Caller from the former Chapter 153) for the fabulous job he did with all three nights of skits; well done,

Mike, you really kept us all laughing.

By the way, there is no bull in this issue, just in case you might still be looking for that 'lost bull,' however we did have plenty of 'bulls' with us in Texas, as we even enjoyed a stampede of the bulls (see page 25); well may not be quite a stampede, but definitely a race of the bulls, thanks to George, Sandy and Nikki.

On Saturday afternoon at the General Meeting John & I took off our presidential hats after having served eight years on the NSDCA BOD. We consider it an honor to be a part of this great organization, and our hope is to continue to stay involved. The entire General Assembly welcomed John & Katarina Harden to the Board for a four-year term as vice president. I am also proud to say that our Florida Chapter 193 had six member couples attend the Texas Camporee and I believe that earned us the title of the 'Chapter with the most members attending.'

After the Camporee was over, John & I headed for Pennsylvania for my Utz Family Reunion (we haven't been able to attend for the past seven years) and the Utz Family Farm 150-year Celebration. Both were great celebrations filled with fun and connecting with family we had not seen in many years.

Enough said! This is a Chapter Chat after all, so I best be giving you the Chapter 193 news. Here is what's happening in our 'neck of the woods' as some might say! Chapter 193 begins our regular fall/winter/spring schedule of camping and dancing on the 2nd full weekend of each month, with our first campout at the Wekiva Falls RV Resort near Sanford, just a little bit north of Orlando, September 10th thru the 13th. Come by and dance with us. However, prior to the regular camping season, we plan a dancing/camping weekend in Cocoa Beach in August.

Next, Florida's Annual State Camporee flyer is in this month's issue on page 55 and this event is planned to be a great 50th 'Golden' Anniversary celebration. We actually had our very own 'Golden Girls' make an appearance at the 2025 Camporee, so I am really hoping that we will be graced by their very lively and comical presence at our GOLDEN celebration next month. Make plans to come out to help celebrate and enjoy the fun with us. For sure, Florida's State Camporee is one of the best 'deals for your bucks' around these days. Still only \$50/couple for three days of square, round and line dancing fun, with a lunch and a catered dinner included. Hope we see you there.

If you are in Florida anytime, be sure to check our schedule online at NSDCA.org, later in this issue of the *TIMES*, or our on our Chapter's NEW website at www.flroadrunnersquares193.org, and consider spending a weekend with 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

A look back at the 68th NSDCA CAMPOREE

What a time we had!! The Camporee was a blast in spite of all the work. From the comments we heard I think most everyone would agree.

We had great help from many campers as well as our committee. We were very glad to see about 14 members from the Houston Area Camping Squares join us dancing and graciously helping out. What great donuts!!

It was a busy week all right: games, crafts, potlucks, and of course, lots of dancing. Our Trail-In Dance was a celebration for USA's 250th birthday. The dance hall was filled with lots of red, white and blue along with stars and stripes. We shared a great birthday cake with everyone (see below).



Each morning we had a different sports game to bring out the competitive nature in many of us. See the "Camporee Statistics" article on page 24 for details and winners.

Our craft time featured something different each day: Wednesday we made flowers from coffee filters, napkins and pipe cleaners; we decorated the table for the evening potluck with them (pictures next page).



On Thursday we made flag pins (above right) and Friday we as-

sembled earrings, bracelets or necklaces with cowboy hats or boots as charms.

Most of the weather was good; I only remember one time where there was any amount of rain. The air conditioners definitely worked overtime!

Coushatta Ranch was a good place for this event, although it was a little bit “off the main road.” Having two halls available for dancing gave everyone a chance to “do their own thing.” There were Round dance workshops and dancing; Mainstream workshops and dancing; Plus workshops with the newly added calls and lots of dancing day and night; Advanced dancing every day; and line dancing thanks to all the great Callers and Cuers.

It was great to see so many friends from around the country celebrating America’s birthday with us and enjoying our great activity (see page 25).

We wish to thank all involved for making our job a success. A spe-

(68th Camporee continued on page 24)

(68th Camporee continued from page 23)

cial thanks to Mike Gormley for the entertaining afterparties each night.

We ended the week with three of our bull mascots having a race down the dance hall (picture next page, bottom).

We are making plans to attend the International Camporee being held in Tennessee in July of 2027. We hope to see all of you returning, some of you coming back that missed this year, and wishing for some new campers also. Be safe, happy dancing and camping!!

See U in a square.

Sandy McIntire and George Ferguson, 2026 General Chairpersons

68th NSDCA CAMPOREE STATISTICS

Attendance

- 31 rigs registered (three rigs very sadly had to cancel)
- Two (2) couples stayed off-site
- Two (2) couples + two (2) singles attended from the local area
- There were attendees from nine (9) states; Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin
- In addition to the three (3) Texan couples already associated with NSDCA, we had seven (7) new Texan rigs register and attend

Callers

Bob Asp (#014), Angel Baker (#000), George Ferguson (#193), Julian Godsey (#000), Mike Gormley (#000), John Harden (#002), Nathan Harden (#002), Denise Hopkins (#014), Tom Nickel (#123) and Kathi Sawyer (#014).

Cuers

Kathy Nickel (#123) and Susan Wolford (#193)

Sports Games

Corn Hole Toss: 19 Participants

- 3rd Place: Terry & Marcia Brubaker (#000)
- 2nd Place: Roy Huddleston (#152) & Tom Biehn (#193)
- 1st Place: Tom Nickel (#123) & Dolly Ide (#193)

Bocce Ball: 16 Participants

- 3rd Place: Kathi Sawyer (#014) & Pat Rozelle (#196)
- 2nd Place: Don Wolford (#193) & Bobby Ryall (#193)
- 1st Place: Carol Schuknecht (guest) & Tricia Chartier (#002)

Washer Toss: 16 Participants

- 3rd Place: Tom Nickel (#123) & Dolly Ide (#193)
- 2nd Place: Terry Brubaker (#000) & Katharina Hardin (#002)
- 1st Place: Roy Huddleston (#152) & Bob Asp (#014)



↑ The Birthday Party Dance Attendees →



Bocce
Ball

←



The "Bull Race"

Excerpts from the 2026 NSDCA Annual Report

President, Dolly & John Ide

Can you count to 8? Dolly and I have been on the NSDCA Board for 8 years, which is the end of the allowable two four-year terms on the Board. We've thoroughly enjoyed all of them and intend to continue as NSDCA members and help as we can, but we need some new and fresh 'blood' with some new ideas and energy to join your continuing Board, Roy Huddleston & Priscilla Newton, Tricia & Neal Chartier, and Susan & Don Wolford, your great and dedicated continuing Board members.

We've had a lot of great times, met a lot of really nice people, made some life-long friends. And were able to experience some fascinating places, all because we chose to step forward and do the best we knew how, to lead this great organization, the NSDCA. Now we're asking who among you is willing to step up and embrace the challenges to help the NSDCA through the next several years? Just let any current Board member know that you're interested in helping the great activity of square dancing and camping continue.

Looking forward to meet and dance with you in a square in the future.

Dolly & John

Vice President, Roy Huddleston & Priscilla Newton

Hello Campers.

Since our home is in Alabama, we've also been focusing on encouraging square dancers in Georgia to consider membership in the NSDCA. In the past few months, we have visited many brick-n-mortar clubs in Georgia and Alabama, encouraging those with campers to come out and enjoy one the Alabama Campers and Dancers campouts, and hopefully join the NSDCA.

Priscilla and I enjoyed the camaraderie of the square dancers in Georgia and invited them to join us at our Alabama campouts. We're also extending a challenge to club members of all clubs to go out and recruit one couple for the NSDCA. We are on a recruiting campaign to bring back all the fun, enjoyment and camaraderie that camping and dancing gave us in the past. We are the only ones that can keep the enjoyment going in the next generations.

God bless all of our members.

Roy & Priscilla

Secretary, Neal & Tricia Chartier

We are very sad to say goodbye to Dolly & John Ide as they retire from the Board as our president. It has been such an honor and privilege to work with them since we joined the Board. Their dedication and friendship have meant so much to us.

Ken Shacter is also stepping down as editor of the NSDCA *TIMES*. He has done such an amazing job over the years. I am especially looking

forward to finally meeting Ken — we talk quite often, and I absolutely adore him and his sense of humor. I will truly miss working with him!

This has been a very challenging year for us since January. Being able to walk out of a burning house has been life-altering. Neal & I were devastated to lose our sweet Colby. He hid in the bathroom and sadly didn't make it out of the house.

For Neal & I, this has become a year of change and gratitude. We have found strength in the love and support of our family and friends. We can never fully express our thanks to everyone who has reached out with kind words, warm hugs, prayers, and donations.

Most of all, Neal & I are deeply thankful that I was able to get out of the house safely. Five more minutes, and I honestly don't think that would have been the case.

Some days it feels like I'm barely hanging on, but with strong faith, the love around us, and sometimes just taking baby steps, we keep moving forward.

With love and gratitude,

Neal & Tricia

Treasurer, Susan & Don Wolford

I hope that your Chapter is up and running full speed as spring makes way for summer. Our campouts are throughout the winter in Florida. Don and I ended 2025 attending two campouts with Strawberry Travelers #153. Unfortunately, Strawberry Travelers voted to close their Chapter. With that closing, Don and I decided to join Roadrunner Squares #193. This Chapter camps and dances eight months during the Florida winter season and we have enjoyed four campouts with #193. It's a great group of dancers! We also attended the Florida State Camporee in October 2025. We're looking forward to the Florida State Camporee this coming October, as their theme is 50 Years Celebration.

Hope to see you across the square there.

Don & Susan

NSDCA Staff

Membership Secretary, Kathy Nickel

Hi everyone. I hope that you all had a great year of camping. We so look forward to our camping and dancing with our Chapter. In 2025 the Association gained 22 new members, with Florida Roadrunners (#193) gaining the most new members. But on the other side, we lost over 60 members. So, please keep marketing your Chapters, as we really need new members. Camping and dancing are both such FUN activities, so let everyone else know about it and grow your clubs. If every Chapter were to add five new members, we would see a nice increase in membership. Make it a goal for your Chapter.

As we start our 2026 camping year, I want to challenge you again to

(‘Report’ continued from page 27)

keep your address changes updated timely and make it a year of even less returned *TIMES* newsletters. It saves us money on return mail postage and lots of time tracking down address changes. The other challenge is to make 2026 a year of membership growth. Market the FUN you experience camping and dancing and I’m sure your membership will grow.

I hope you all have a GREAT year of camping and dancing.

Kathy Nickel

NSDCA *TIMES* editor, Ken Shacter

As I write this report, I have just started compiling the thirty-fourth issue of the NSDCA *TIMES* in my term as editor. I thank the Board members, State and Area Representatives, the other Staff members and (especially) all Chapter correspondents who have provided material for their individual columns in the Chats around the Campfire and Campout Schedule sections. As always, a hearty thanks goes to our Association’s webmaster, Bob Summers, for the support he provides and to Bob’s long-suffering wife, Marguerite, for understanding all the time Bob spends tending to the website or researching answers to my questions about website possibilities (and then doing it). I would be remiss if I did not also thank my wife, Carolyn, who puts up with me in the weeks leading up to the issue’s deadline, either dealing with the newsletter or the website, or returning email and phone calls from members, correspondents or Board members. Carolyn also provides another set of eyes (and most of all, a brain) to double-check my initial proofing of the document. Lastly, a very special THANK YOU also goes to John and Dolly Ide for their continued support in suggesting items, providing graphic layout and enhancements, covers and flyers, and doing the final proofing of the *TIMES* issues I have edited. I could not perform the task of producing our quarterly newsletter without the aid and assistance of the people identified above.

As you can tell from the above paragraph, producing your newsletter is not the job of a single person. I’m very serious when I write that this is a newsletter for and by the members of the NSDCA. If an article has a byline, the author is an NSDCA member unless explicitly stated otherwise. If there is no byline, the article was written or compiled by the Editor (an NSDCA member). If some topic interests you, it probably interests others. Please contribute articles or pictures (everybody likes pictures) on any subject of interest to square dancers and campers. We all will benefit from your contribution. For reviews (e.g., campgrounds, RVs, equipment) let us know the good, the bad and the ugly. Reviews of campgrounds are always welcomed; many of us travel near your camping/dancing venues at times outside of when you are meeting – but may consider staying at a particular campground if convenient and well-

reviewed. If writing about crafts that another Chapter can use on their campout, please include a picture or two of the finished product(s) and provide instructions and guidance on how to complete the project (remember, everyone likes pictures). Also please remember my outstanding requests for biographies on your Chapter caller/cuer, for campout-friendly food recipes, Publicity Director Bill Baker's "We tried this and it worked great!" idea, RV enhancements, or favorite signs you have seen. The deadlines for each quarter's newsletter are posted in each issue, but there's no need to wait until the last minute to submit something.

Remember, the *TIMES* is your newsletter. It is the editor's job to assemble your contributions into a usable document that is distributed to the NSDCA membership. Without your help the newsletter will suffer. Thank you for committing to provide interesting and meaningful content for all to read and enjoy.

Ken Shacter

Illinois State Representative, Ruthann Sanders

Illinois has three large very active Chapters (014, 123, & 196) and three Chapters whose membership is dwindling fast (044, 066, & 075). However, the remaining members stay actively involved; many are Associate Members of one of the larger Chapters.

All three of the smaller membership Chapters have members on the state Board of Directors. In fact, the Board has representation from each Chapter.

Please watch for the dates and location for 2027's Illinois State Camporee in the NSDCA *TIMES* and as they say on *The Price is Right*. "Come on down" (or up or over) you will have a GREAT TIME when you visit an Illinois Chapter and/or the Illinois State Camporee.

Ruthann Sanders

Florida State Representative, Laura Ramsey

To quote Square Wheels' caller, Bill Chesnut, "Most Callers have begun using the new lists for Mainstream and Plus, as revised by Call-erlab." I am one of the MANY who appreciate the patient lessons being provided to get us ready for the change. Due to a reunion and surgery, my husband Dennis and I missed two weeks of lessons, and seriously – it was back to the drawing board! I guess it has been a long time (14 years) since I was a new dancer struggling to keep the Mainstream and then Plus steps straight; it is a lesson in humility.

After a terribly long dry spell and close-by fires, we have finally had several drenching rains; I am very grateful for this, and for our extended square and round dance family. Safe travels to all who are hitting the road.

Laura Ramsey

('Report' continued on page 32)



GRAND OLE CAMPOREE in TENNESSEE

James E. Ward Agricultural & Community Cntr
945 E Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon TN 37087
July 8, 9, 10, 2027: Camporee Events



Date: _____ NSDCA Membership # _____
NON-Member - (Requires added \$20 Surcharge-See Below)

Information for PARKING by LOCATION & RV NEEDS

ARRIVAL 07/_____/2027 DEPARTURE 07/_____/2027

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 # _____

DANCE INTERESTS (✓ Interests)

<u>Square Dance</u>	<u>Round Dance</u>	<u>Line Dance</u>
____ 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)

<u>Square Dance</u>	<u>Round Dance</u>
____ Mainstream	____ Phase II
____ Plus	____ Phase III
____ A-1	____ Phase IV
____ A-2	____ Phase V
____ Youth/Teen Dance Program	____ Other

Caller Name _____
Availability (✓) W ____ TH ____ F ____ S ____

Cuer Name _____
Availability (✓) W ____ TH ____ F ____ S ____

Lines Instructor _____
Availability (✓) W ____ TH ____ F ____ S ____

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...\$160 2 Days...\$130 1 Day...\$100 (ALL FEES IN US FUNDS ONLY)

Please ✓ days planning to camp: (Extra Days Campsite Fees @ \$30 per day) **NonCamper Fee: _____ \$70**

Mon 5th _____ Tues 6th _____ Wed 7th _____ Thurs 8th _____ Fri 9th _____ Sat 10th _____

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

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 **"69th NSDCA Camporee"** to:

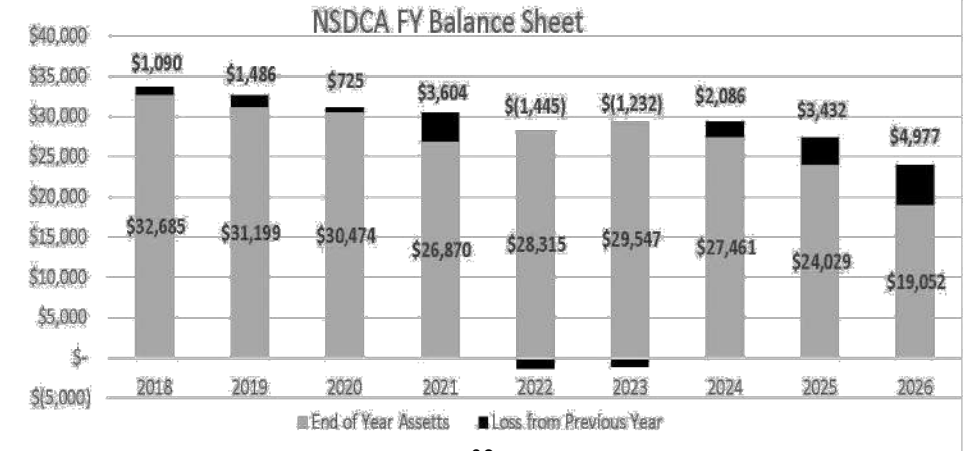
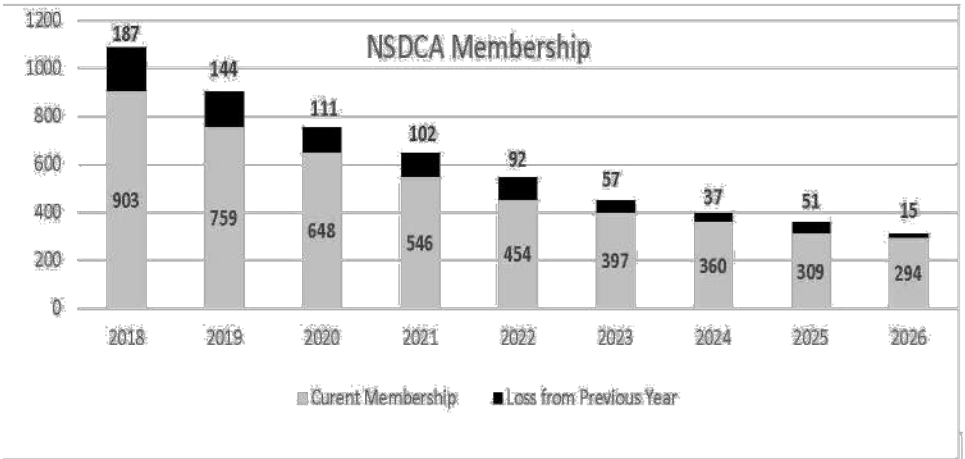
(June 1st – October 8th): Susan Wolford, 79 Dogwood Rd., Albertville AL 35950

(October 12th – May 25th) Susan Wolford, 1435 Razorbill Ln., Punta Gorda FL 33983

For more info, contact Susan Wolford: (256) 673-0170; 69th.nsdca@gmail.com

2017 - 2026 NSDCA Statistics

Year	Membership			FY	Assets		
	Current	Loss from Previous	%		End of Year	Loss from Previous	%
2017	1090	127	10.4	2017	\$ 33,775	\$ (1,583)	-4.9
2018	903	187	17.2	2018	\$ 32,685	\$ 1,090	3.2
2019	759	144	15.9	2019	\$ 31,199	\$ 1,486	4.5
2020	648	111	14.6	2020	\$ 30,474	\$ 725	2.3
2021	546	102	15.7	2021	\$ 26,870	\$ 3,604	11.8
2022	454	92	16.8	2022	\$ 28,315	\$ (1,445)	-5.4
2023	397	57	12.6	2023	\$ 29,547	\$ (1,232)	-4.4
2024	360	37	9.3	2024	\$ 27,461	\$ 2,086	7.1
2025	309	51	14.1	2025	\$ 24,029	\$ 3,432	12.5
2026	294	15	4.9	2026	\$ 19,052	\$ 4,977	20.7



NSDCA FY25 ANNUAL FINANCIAL ASSETS REPORT June 1 2025 - May 31 2026

Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Modified Cash Basis

<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>FY-2025</u>	<u>FY-2026</u>
Checking Account	\$ 2,660.00	\$ 2,180.88
Money Market - Savings	\$ 21,369.21	\$ 16,871.12
Advance - 68th Camporee		
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 24,029.21	\$ 19,052.00
Beginning of Year	\$ 27,461.47	\$ 24,029.21
Gain(Loss) - Modified Cash Basis	\$ (3,432.26)	\$ (4,977.21)

<u>Revenues</u>		
Badges	\$ 530.00	\$ 222.00
Camporee	\$ 826.04	\$ -
Dues - New Members	\$ 590.00	\$ 500.00
Dues - Renewal	\$ 5,030.00	\$ 4,890.00
TIMES Ads	\$ 70.00	\$ -
Interest	\$ 2.10	\$ 1.91
Miscellaneous	\$ 20.00	\$ 822.64
Total Revenues Collected	\$ 7,068.14	\$ 6,436.55

<u>Expenses</u>		
Badge + Shipping Cost	\$ 601.90	\$ 708.95
Insurance - Liability/Bonding	\$ 3,811.46	\$ 4,366.52
Postage/Shipping	\$ 189.09	\$ 124.76
Membership Expenses		
Overpayments Refund	\$ -	\$ -
Rent - Storage Space	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies & Postage	\$ -	\$ -
NSDCA TIMES		
Postage/Printing	\$ 3,511.32	\$ 3,221.74
Promotion by NSDCA		
Printing & Materials*	\$ 1,174.02	\$ 1,803.93
Various Reps/Staff/Directors		
Office Equipment (Flags & Recpt Reader)	\$ -	\$ -
Staff Supplies	\$ -	\$ -
Rep/Staff Expense	\$ 149.59	\$ 113.94
Website Expense (Go Daddy)*	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous		
Licenses & Permits**	\$ 1,063.02	\$ 1,073.92
Total Expenses	\$10,500.40	\$11,413.76



Thank You to our NSDCA Family

We have thoroughly enjoyed our 8 years serving as president of this great organization that is a family to us. A big thank you to the wonderful officers we worked with on the BOD and to all the many dancers and friends who reached out and loved us in so many ways.

We wish Roy & Priscilla great success as your new presidents; they are both loaded with enthusiasm. John & Katarina, newest BOD members, bring with them the related knowledge of a Caller & taw that certainly will be of great benefit to the organization. Your secretaries, Tricia & Neal, have been awesome with their devotion and unbelievable energy, and that coupled with the musical talent plus fantastic bookkeeping skills of your Treasurers, Don & Susan, makes the future of the NSDCA look bright with success.

Remember, the BOD cannot do this by themselves; the rest of the "NSDCA Family" has to contribute to keep the camping and dancing fun growing.

John & I are committed to continue in the NSDCA, dancing as long and as often as we can, and celebrating with our NSDCA family even when we can't dance anymore. Hot dogs cooked over a camp-fire don't taste any different whether you dance or not, but they certainly do taste a lot better when shared with your friends.

John & Dolly Ide (Past Presidents)

We Remember Our Friends

Phyllis Adams (Swing-N-Travelers, 123)

Chapter 123 was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of one of our Charter members. Phyllis Adams, along with her hubby Clif (who passed away in 2012), helped form our Chapter and even hosted the organizational meeting for 123 around their big kitchen table. Until their health prevented it, they rarely missed a campout and always helped out wherever they could. Clif, a dynamite setter for a local quarry, usually provided the wire to make our campfires so colorful.



Phyllis, 89, passed away March 25, 2026 after a very short stay in a nursing home. She was very active in her church as well as the Chief City Swingers in Pontiac, IL, their local square dance club. She enjoyed doing genealogy research as well as needlework. Phyllis was Chapter 123's unofficial historian, keeping all our records, newsletters, meeting minutes, etc. She loved to entertain and even had an open house each time they had a new camper—complete with refreshments!

Phyllis will be remembered by the Swing-N-Travelers as a soft spoken gentle lady that could certainly get things done in her own quiet way.

Submitted by Carol Scher

Johnnie Galen Holzhausen (Campers and Dancers, 152)

Galen Holzhausen went to be with the Lord on July 30, 2026 at the age of 83. He lost a very short battle with cancer. He had been an avid square dancer most of his life, and loved the family he gained by doing so. He is leaving behind his wife Susan and two adult children, along with a few grandchildren.

Galen resided in Clearwater, Florida for the past four years; prior to that he lived in Hoschton, Georgia. He was a recent past member of # 152; he had to stop dancing and camping because of his health.



Submitted by Roy Huddleston

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. Please provide a photo (high-resolution if possible) if one is available. Thank you.



and the FUN continues...

There were a total of 16 entries this time providing thoughts on the location of our 2026 Camporee mascot, our lost male bovine, "Bully." Some readers mistook the looks of a buffalo (or bison) for a bull, as several people identified the wall decoration in the photo for Chapter 014's 'Chat.' Bully was really hiding at the Couchatte Ranch office, identified by the red 'pin' on the inside front cover. The winning entry for the Summer issue contest, chosen at random by the computer spreadsheet containing all of the entries, belongs to Debbie & Bill Cassidy of Square Wheels (#128, FL). Congratulations Debbie & Bill, your 2027 NSDCA membership fee will be waived. (It's still a long way off, so please remember to have the certificate you received via email sent to our NSDCA Treasurer when you renew in December.)

Some of the comments received about our wayward bull are as follows: Perennial punster Jim Sebesta (#045, PA) wrote, "Bully has arrived at the site of the Camporee. I think he's celebrated his early arrival with a few too many Red Bulls to drink and he's gotten kind of lit up. He tells me he's putting together a band to serenade everyone with moosic as they arrive for the Camporee. He says if he can chase down a drummer (cowbell required) he'll supply the horns. I've been told he's pretty boss on the moosic scene. He once played the Cow Palace in San Francisco with his group called The Herd. Perhaps you've 'herd' of them?"

These Chapter 193 (FL) members provided the following: Susan Wolford noted, "He's already arrived at Couchatte! He must be checking in... he's in the main office!" while Steve & Winnie House thought, "I guess Bully really wanted to get to the Camporee, because he's sitting right in the Couchatte pin the inside cover! See y'all there!" Tom Biehn provided a sartorial comment, "He is on a gentleman's head second row from right in back row. He would make a cool hat!"

These Chapter 123 (IL) members provided the following: Dave & Mary Bruun said, "Well, Bully has found his way to the Couchatte Recreation Ranch in Bellville, with the help of a GPS. He's going to the Main Office. Someone may have to round him up and bring him to the wagon master. Good Luck!!" Pat Edwards had thought, "The missing bull seems to be sitting on someone's head (actually it looks like a wall mural). He has just found a comfy place to rest; I sure hope he behaves himself while he's relaxing there." Judith & Jerry Boutelle had some more fashion advice: "It is sitting on top of the man's head, appearing like a toupee." Chet & Janet Bowman got to the point: "Found the bull on page 2 in the bottom picture inside the bottom red marker with an arrow

pointed at it. Next to the arrow it says ‘Main Office.’ How could anyone miss this?!”

From our winners, Bill & Debbie Cassidy (#128, FL): “Well, it appears Bully beat everyone to the Square Dance Camporee! There he is, just waiting for all to arrive at the main office of Coushatta Recreation Ranch. Yup, the arrow is actually pointing right at him!” Carolyn Shacter (also #128) said, “Bully made it to the Camporee before the rest of us. He was trucking! He is now patiently waiting for us in the main office of the Coushatta Recreation Ranch. I sure hope he can find enough to eat and keep busy until we get there. See you soon, Bully!”

These folks from #116 (KS) had the following to say: Mike Huddleson’s thoughts were on food: “The missing future hamburger can be found on page 2.” Shirley McPhail stated, “I found Bully at the main office of Coushatta Recreation Ranch.” Lastly, Frank & Marty Golden noted, “Golly, that little fellow has traveled so far he has shrunk, ready to dance Texas-style!”

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 (like Chapter 123, one of this year’s winners) would easily swamp the numbers from a smaller Chapter (like Chapter 044, the other winner this year). The year-end tally (based on the Summer through Spring issues, ending just before the International Camporee) is also based on the weighted percentage of total members of that Chapter (as membership can fluctuate over the two calendar years the information is

(‘Contest’ continued on page 38)

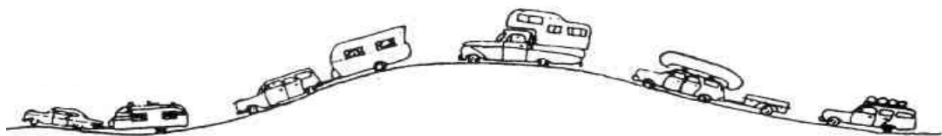
Chapter name	chapter #	Entrant
Penn-Dixie Square Campers (PA)	045	Jim Sebesta
Dakota Wheelers (SD)	061	Richard Wooten
Camping Squares of Kansas (KS)	116	Mike Huddleson Frank & Marty Golden Shirley McPhail
Swing ‘N’ Travelers (IL)	123	Pat Edwards Judith & Jerry Boutelle Jim and Sharon Waller Dave & Mary Bruun Norm Schertz Janet & Chet Bowman
Square Wheels (FL)	128	Debbie & Bill Cassidy Carolyn Shacter
Florida Road Runners (FL)	193	Tom & Rita Biehn Susan Wolford Steven House

(‘Contest’ continued from page 37)

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 individual members and only a couple 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, this is *your* newsletter! It is *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 2027 International Camporee is being held once again in Lebanon, TN. Our mascot is fittingly a fiddle, and its traveling with one of the Pine Tree (#002) caravanning members. As it’s been a while since we’ve used our caravan for the ‘Lost Camper,’ here’s a quick rundown on history of the caravan, originally provided by Howie Reoch of Pine Tree (#002, WI): “The leader of this caravan (see image below) is a car pulling an Avion belonging to Alex and Jen Brabender; the second is a station wagon and pull-behind travel trailer belonging to Joe and Bea Sokol. The third member of the caravan was Howie and his wife, Bev, in a pick-up bed-camper; the fourth with the canoe and pop-up camper was Sad and Ken Johnson; finally the last members of the caravan were Tony and Lou Bergett, who had a tent tied to the top of their station wagon. If some of the details are a little off, or the spelling of the names are wrong, we apologize for that, but we hope this also gets other memory lane journeys started.”



Check the front cover to find out which of our caravan members has lost their way to the 2027 International Camporee, and send your answer regarding their location to **NSDCAtimes@gmail.com** (to arrive no later than October 31, 2026). Please send your submissions only by email for this issue’s contest (remember, for whatever reason accurate and timely mail delivery has gone the way of the 10 cent cup of coffee).

I sometimes make a mistake and omit a confirmed submission (which I expect to be alerted to by the unlucky entrant) but I cannot log your submission as received and enter it in the table shown on page 37 if I never get it. 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

(‘Contest’ continued on page 50)

Cauliflower Chicken Bake

Ingredients:

- 1 fresh medium-to-large head of cauliflower
- ~3 oz, boneless, skinless chicken meat
- 1.5 oz, sweet onion
- 1/8 tsp, garlic powder
- 1/8 tsp, paprika
- 1/4 tsp, of favorite single or mixed herbs, crushed
- 5 tbsp, plain Greek yogurt (2% milkfat)
- 2 mushrooms
- 0.35 oz, block Gouda cheese (shaved)
- 0.7 oz, shredded Mozzarella cheese



Courtesy of
Carolyn Shacter #128

Steps:

- 1) Cut two 1-inch thick 'steaks' from the middle of a head of cauliflower (~1 lb).
- 2) Finely chop mushrooms, onion and chicken.
- 3) In a medium-sized bowl, mix the herbs, garlic powder and paprika with the Greek yogurt.
- 4) Place the cauliflower 'steaks' on a greased cookie sheet (or use parchment paper).
- 5) Spread one (1) tablespoon of the yogurt-spice mix onto each cauliflower 'steak.'
- 6) Add chicken, onion and mushroom to the remaining three (3) tablespoons of yogurt mixture and mix well.
- 7) Spread the yogurt mixture evenly on both cauliflower 'steaks.'
- 8) Sprinkle shredded mozzarella cheese on both 'steaks' and top with shaved Gouda.
- 9) Bake in a 350°F oven for 45 minutes.
- 10) Serve.

Nutritional information is provided below.

Makes 2 servings; each serving is ~185 calories.

Total fat (g)	5	Cholesterol (g)	46	Sugars (g)	8
Saturated fat (g)	2	Sodium (mg)	221	Protein (g)	21
Poly unsat. fat (g)	0	Potassium (mg)	990	Vitamin C	177%
Mono unsat. fat (g)	0	Total carbs (g)	17	Calcium	23%
Trans fat (g)	0	Dietary fiber (g)	6	Iron	7%

Helpful Hints – Reconditioned Computers

Many of us experience issues with our computers due to their age—versus ours! Components may be malfunctioning or the computer cannot accept the latest operating system being offered by Microsoft or Apple. What to do? There are four choices: 1) do nothing, and live with the issues and challenges you are having with your equipment; 2) buy a new computer; 3) buy a reconditioned computer; or 4) shop around (garage sales, Craig’s List, etc.) and buy a used computer via private sale. Down through the years I have done all four.

First, you need to determine what you want to do with your computer before you replace the one you have. I do not need the latest and greatest hardware, nor do I need a speed demon (I do not play games), but I do want something that will support the latest operating system, mostly to protect me from viruses and other internet-based malware that may inadvertently be picked up. I use my computer to store photos from my camera and phone, make ‘slide shows’ from those photos for family, scan documents, communicate via email, text (versus using the phone as I have “fat fingers”), stream Britbox and PBS Passport, load music onto my phone to listen to while we travel, and of course, edit the NSDCA newsletter (at least for a little while longer).

When the need previously arose to replace the hardware I had, I used to buy new, but prices for what I would call a decent computer since the advent of COVID were not in line with what I thought they should be. As noted above, I have purchased used, but there’s no warranty that comes with a private sale. Thus, I eventually started investigating reconditioned computers.

Let me first state that the relatively inexpensive computers (versus the higher-cost ones) you can buy at the big box stores (e.g., Walmart or Best Buy) come with low-end CPUs, and limited RAM and offline storage (i.e., hard disk/solid-state drive); they are not built to last with heavy use, and I use my computer a lot! I prefer laptops versus desktops or towers as laptops are designed to be portable and don’t take up much room in the RV when we camp; expansion capability is not a priority. Prior laptops I have owned have failed principally one of three ways: the hard disk went kaput (although this might be able to be replaced by a technician or yourself, if capable—thus the need for current backups); the keyboard keys would either produce the same letter multiple times when struck or wouldn’t produce a letter at all; or the display screen failed in one manner or another.

So, what exactly is a reconditioned (also known as refurbished) computer? More often than not, it is inventory from a large company, university or school system that is upgrading its employee/student-accessible computers to the latest-and-greatest hardware; they sell the old inventory to the reconditioning company. These computers tend to be about five

years old, and come in a variety of appearance conditions (meaning the way the computer looks; some are in tip-top shape while others have dings or, in the case of laptops, small cracks on the screen bezel). A reputable firm buys these ‘discarded’ computers in bulk, recycles those that are not salvageable, and thoroughly checks out the remaining hardware, often replacing or upgrading parts as deemed necessary. As an example, when being tested, if RAM seems to be somewhat unreliable, that will be replaced (perhaps with RAM obtained from one of the units deemed unsalvageable). Mechanical hard disks are often replaced with more reliable solid-state drives (SSD). The operating system is reinstalled, usually using the most recent version supported by the hardware. Reputable reconditioning firms also offer a guarantee, anywhere from 30 days and up, and also offer (for a fee) a contract-based repair and support service.

Check out what might be available in your vicinity; I’d rather deal face-to-face (and perhaps pay a little bit more) than fuss with a mail-order firm (no matter how reputable) if a problem arises. You also get to ‘play’ with the computer you wish to purchase beforehand if desired; in the case of a laptop, ensuring the keyboard and screen are to your liking. If there are no reconditioners in your vicinity, thoroughly investigate the mail-order company you decide to purchase from. Both local and mail-order reconditioners should have their available inventory (along with price and hardware specifications) listed on their website. Many of these firms also have sales for major holidays, offering excess inventory they have on hand at a steep discount.

Both of my current laptop computers were purchased (at different times) from a local reconditioner during a sale they were running. I purchased my 2019 Apple MacBook Pro (16 GB RAM, 0.5 TB SSD, 16” diagonal screen, 9th generation Intel i7 CPU, Intel UHD Graphics 630) in September of 2023 for \$350 (list price ~\$2,800) and for my 2020 Dell Latitude 5400 (16 GB RAM, 1.0 TB SSD, 14” diagonal touchscreen, 8th generation Intel i5 CPU, Intel UHD Graphics 620) in November of 2024 for \$160 (list price ~\$1,700). More than likely, the Dell will be able to run Windows 12 when it is released (it presently runs Windows 11) but may not be able to run Windows 13. The Mac (presently running macOS 26.5, a.k.a. Tahoe) is no longer able to upgrade its operating system as Apple will no longer support Intel CPUs after Tahoe; security updates will be forthcoming for a number of years, though. If the ability to upgrade to the latest operating system is important to you, that is something to consider when purchasing a previously-owned (as reconditioned computers are) unit.

I have been very pleased with both purchases and the service provided by the reconditioning firm. A problem did develop with the original MacBook I purchased (the programmable touch bar started to flake out

(‘Reconditioned Computers’ continued on page 47)

Chapter Campouts

The following listings were last updated on August 1, 2026. The start day for events is Friday unless otherwise noted. Due to possible disruption of group activities, campouts or other listed events may have been cancelled due to local conditions. Please check with the campout contact(s) to confirm the status of the event before making your plans to attend. Thank you.

Thursday September 10 → September 13

119 Wander Yonders: Wyoming

Grays Gable (Wander Yonder Camping Club)

3905 Grays Gable Road, Laramie, WY

Contact: 307-635-7312

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Wekiva Falls RV Resort

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

Call the campground and make your reservation, then call Tom Biehn and let him know you are attending. Our weekends begin with Early-Bird Thursday and end with a Worship & Coffee on Sunday.

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

September 11 → September 13

001 Garden 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 Square Up Campers.

Pauline/Ron VandeVrede; 973-343-3152 or gssdca@gmail.com

031 Badger Rovers: Wisconsin

Token Creek Campground

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

Contact: 608-289-7582

September 18 → September 19

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Southern Oaks RV Resort

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

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

OR Ron Imus; rlius46@aol.com

September 18 → September 20

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; 973-343-3152 or gssdca@gmail.com

Thursday September 24 → September 26

152 Campers & Dancers: Alabama

Trackrock Campground and Cabins

141 Trackrock Camp Road; Blairsville GA; 706-745-2420

RV sites \$45 full hookup. Cabins also available.

Tell them you are with Campers and Dancers.

Contact George Herndon 334-740-0649; gherndon49@yahoo.com if you plan to come. Make reservations by calling campground or online at <https://www.camplife.com/1282/reservation/step1>

September 25 → September 27

116 Camping Squares of Kansas: Kansas

Fall River State Park

Fall River, KS; 620-637-2213

Camping below the dam. Fun Lake Party at a fellow square dancer's cabin with dancing, potluck, games, etc.

Marty & Frank Golden; fmgolden9515@sbcglobal.net or 316-943-4137

Monday September 28 → October 1

014 Blackhawk Crosstrailers: Illinois

Carlock, IL (campground TBA)

We'll be visiting the Braffet Berry Farm & Orchard and the Barn III for dinner & a theatre performance.

Campground hasn't been finalized as yet. Contact Bob or Cinda for add'l information.

Cinda or Bob Asp: Cinda.Asp@gmail.com

October 2 → October 4

196 Wabash Valley Wheel Arounds: Illinois/Indiana/Ohio

Hancock County Fairgrounds

620 Apple St.; Greenfield; IN; 317-462-1469

Mike/Nancy Holzhausen; 317-989-4533

Thursday October 8 → October 11

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Hammondell Campsites and RV Park

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

Call the campground and make your reservation, then call Tom Biehn and let him know you are attending. Our weekends begin with Early-Bird Thursday and end with a Worship & Coffee on Sunday.

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

Thursday October 15 → October 18

116 Camping Squares of Kansas: Kansas

Lake Afton Campground (west side)

25513 West 39th St S, Goddard, KS;

Last campout of the season, weather permitting.

Marty & Frank Golden; 316-943-4137 or fmgolden9515@sbcglobal.net

Chapter Campouts—continued

(‘Campouts’ continued from page 43)

Thursday October 22 → October 24

♥♥♥ Florida State Camporee: Florida ♥♥♥

Southern Palms RV Park

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

See details at <https://fansdc.net>

128 Square Wheels: Florida

Southern Palms RV Park

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

FANSDC 50th Annual State Camporee.

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

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

Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 OR Ron Imus; rlius46@aol.com

152 Campers & Dancers: Alabama

Monte Sano State Park

5105 Nolen Ave, Huntsville, AL; 256-534-3757

RV sites \$42-\$52 full hookup. Cabins also available. 15% discount for seniors, active military and veterans, persons with disabilities, and State of Alabama employees. Contact Jan Bloodworth 205-508-9331; janb10756@yahoo.com if you plan to come.

Make reservations by calling campground or online at:

<https://www.alapark.com/parks/monte-sano-state-park>

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Southern Palms RV Park

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

Florida State Camporee 50th Anniversary Celebration

Register at www.fansdc.net, Call the campground if you want extra days (3 are included in the Registration), then call Tom Biehn to let him know you are attending. This is our 50th state camporee celebration.

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

Thursday November 5 → November 7

152 Campers & Dancers: Alabama

Roaring Pines Campground

83 Roaring Pines Rd, Somerville, AL;

RV sites \$25 full hookup.

Contact Jonna Denson 205-807-2182; jonnakaydenson@yahoo.com if you plan to come.

Please remember to update your campout entries (via the NSDCA website) if there are any changes to the venue, contact, date, or any other pertinent information. Thank you!

Thursday November 12 → November 15

193 Roadrunner Squares: Florida

Lake Glenada RV Resort

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

Call the campground and make your reservation, then call Tom Biehn and let him know you are attending. Our weekends begin with Early-Bird Thursday and end with a Worship & Coffee on Sunday.

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

December 4 → December 5

128 Square Wheels: Florida

The Springs RV Resort

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

Square Wheels Christmas Party; bring a gift to trade, \$10 or under
Passport America rate of \$28/night for three (3) days; if staying longer than three (3) days the rate is more. Deposit won't be refunded but will be honored for future reservations within a year.

Mary Chesnut; 352-475-2550, cell 352-214-5880; marynut4@gmail.com OR
Tim Hill; 352-205-0596 OR Ron Imus; rlius46@aol.com

Viewing the *TIMES* newsletter online

The NSDCA *TIMES* newsletter is published to the NSDCA website close to the first of March, June, September and December. As previously mentioned in an earlier issue, the online version has full-color photographs for the 'Chapter Chat' and is an ideal place to search for the missing ____ (fill in the blank: camper, cow, frog, bull, ...). So, how does one go about viewing the newsletter online?

First, navigate to the NSDCA website at <https://NSDCA.org>. Notice that the leading site identifier now includes an 's' at the end; you must use 'https' rather than 'http' as before, otherwise your browser will more than likely be unable to reach the site. This added 's' provides an added layer of security, and has been imposed by the website host. Once the home page has loaded, look on the green menu bar for 'NSDCA Times' and hover your cursor over it. Two choices will appear: 'NSDCA Times' and 'Submit chat info.' Select the 'NSDCA Times' item, and a page is displayed



(*Viewing' continued on page 47*)

69TH NSDCA INTERNATIONAL

GRAND OLE CAMPOREE

July
8-9-10
2027



IN TENNESSEE

Lebanon - James E Ward AG Center

Located at 945 E Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon, Tenn. 37087

"3" Full Days of Camping - Dancing and "FUN ACTIVITIES"

Register now... 3 days of camping are included in your registration.

Extra days of camping just \$30.00 - Water & Electric

Visit us at

NSDCA.ORG

Contact: Susan Wolford

256-673-0170 or

69th.nsdca@gmail.com

Hosted by...TBA



Possibilities for planned trips

Grand Ole Opry

Showboat Dinner Cruises

Museums - Trolley Tours - Outlets

Celebrity Homes - Antique Shops

Andrew Jackson Hermitage

Fiddlers' Grove Historic Village

(‘Reconditioned Computers’ continued from page 41)

on one side); this occurred within the 45-day warranty period, and the computer was replaced by the firm without any push-back. The replacement computer had a ‘butterfly keyboard’ which was known to have issues, and that one was quickly swapped out for the unit I presently have. No further problems have occurred, and I have yet to have a problem with the Dell.

Whether buying new, from a private seller, or obtaining a reconditioned unit, each option has its own advantages and disadvantages. When it comes time to replace the MacBook with one that has the newer Apple CPU, I will more than likely opt for the reconditioned route again. ■

(‘Viewing’ continued from page 45)

with the various issues of the *TIMES* shown, sorted by year with the most recent issue being on the left. All you need to do is left click the cover of the issue you want to read, and a pdf version of the file will be loaded into your browser and open in a new tab. If you wish to download the issue to your computer (perhaps so you can read it while you are not connected to the internet), right click the issue’s cover and select ‘Download Linked File’ (or whatever your particular browser version offers to download the file). Usually (unless you have changed the target location) the file will be saved in your ‘downloads’ folder.

What do you do if you find the font too small to easily read? Most browsers, and certainly the five big ones (Safari, Edge, Chrome, Firefox and Opera) allow you to enlarge (or zoom in on) what is being displayed on the screen. This can be accomplished either using special keys (e.g., ‘COMMAND +’ for any browser on the Mac) or a browser menu selection (usually found under the ‘View’ item).

If you save the issue to your computer, there are a couple of ways to view it. The easiest way is to use your file manager (*Finder* for Mac, *File Explorer* for Windows) and navigate to the folder where the file is saved and then double-click it. Depending on what is set as the program to manage pdf files, either *Preview* (on the Mac) or Edge or *Adobe Reader* (on the PC) will open the file. Each of these programs allow you to enlarge the page to make it easier to read (if you find the font too small for your taste) or to search for the missing ____ (fill in the blank).

And – if you are so inclined – your browser or the programs mentioned in the previous paragraph will allow you to print a hard copy of the entire newsletter or a single page. Please note the current format for the newsletter that is saved to the NSDCA website does not produce the booklet format you receive in the mail – it is a single page per sheet of paper, and it’s not full-sized either! As such, don’t be surprised if you print a page or two that it doesn’t look quite the same as you are used to seeing in the commercially printed version of the *TIMES*. ■

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 <https://www.nsdca.org>

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tenickel@chorus.net

ARTS-Dance Representative:

Barbara Connelly
Lower Waterford, VT
(802) 745-7621
artsrep@nsdca.org

**"Let's go
Dancing"**

NSDCA AREA REPRESENTATIVES (2026-2027)

CANADA

The Board is seeking a volunteer to fill this position.

Please contact a Board Member (page 49) if you wish to be considered.

NORTH CENTRAL

(Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin)

David Lust and Sharon Schmidt; 121 Fieldstone Dr.; Lodi, WI 53555

(608) 650-5743 ; davidlust@ymail.com

NORTH EAST

(Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont)

Barbara Connelly

Lower Waterford, VT

(802) 748-8538; artsrep@nsdca.org

NORTH WEST

(Colorado, N & S Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming)

The Board is seeking a volunteer to fill this position.

Please contact a Board Member (page 49) if you wish to be considered.

SOUTH CENTRAL

(Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas)

The Board is seeking a volunteer to fill this position.

Please contact a Board Member (page 49) if you wish to be considered.

SOUTH EAST [.]

(Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, N & S Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and W Virginia)

The Board is seeking a volunteer to fill this position.

Please contact a Board Member (page 49) if you wish to be considered.

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 49) 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

(‘Contest’ continued from page 38)

sent your submission and then resubmit it. If worse comes to worse, call me (my phone number is on page 49) and ask if I got it.

For your contest entry, please provide the page number *and* where on the page our lost camper is located. Also be sure to provide your NSDCA Chapter number, even if you have submitted entries before. If you are part of a couple, include both names on your entry. Note that simply providing something like “on the bottom of page 2” is insufficient (even if it is at the bottom of page 2); be more specific (e.g., it is on the bottom of page 2 in the red ‘pin’ identifying the campground’s office). Note that if you also write something clever like the contributors listed earlier did, 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 whenever you communicate with any Association staff member or Board member. Thank you!

(‘Forethoughts’ continued from page 4)

to see the doctor that Monday; he diagnosed either acute viral gastroenteritis or bronchitis, but must have suspected something else as he had a chest X-ray taken. The next day he called to tell us that the X-ray showed Carolyn had pneumonia. He prescribed an antibiotic and told us to keep an eye on things. Throughout this period I was taking Carolyn’s temperature and blood pressure at regular (and sometimes irregular) intervals, and that night her blood pressure crashed. We experienced this once before – some 15 months earlier – which resulted in an extended hospital stay to clear things up. I took her to the ER, and sure enough, she was admitted; further testing indicated double pneumonia compounded with sepsis (when she gets sick, she does it up big!). Five-and-a-half days later she was discharged – not cured but doing a lot better – with a list of specialists to see as long as half an arm. When I started writing this column (four-plus weeks out from her hospital discharge), she’s was still recuperating. Obviously, we did not make it to Bellville.

We understand (from our friends that we never caught up with) that an absolutely great time was had by all. If you didn’t have a chance to go, check out the *Snooper* newsletters that were issued during the Camporee; they’re online at the NSDCA website (look on the green menu bar under Campouts→Camporees). As John & Dolly Ide have competed eight years

(‘Forethoughts’ continued on page 54)

(‘Representative’ continued from page 10)

Florida State Representative

Greetings from the Sunshine State! Here in Florida we have two camping square dance groups: the RoadRunners and the Square Wheels. Both of our groups had a good presence at the National held in Texas this year. Beyond that, it has been hot hot weather and most of us have not taken our rigs out, but now, finally we are gearing up for an active Fall season.

In August, the Square Wheels visited a new (to us) RV resort in Crystal River, a lovely location with great amenities.

The big event we are preparing for is our 50th annual Golden Jubilee FANSDC Camporee. The camping rate is just \$40/night. Registration for NSDCA members is \$50/couple, providing: three (3) days and nights of round, square and line dancing; one catered dinner; one catered lunch; games and crafts; workshops, afterparties and entertainment. More details are available at <https://FANSDC.net>, or call Laura Ramsey at (904) 463-7004.

Lastly, our Association needs to find someone to step up and assume the *TIMES* Editor position which Ken Shacter currently holds. He will continue to maintain the website’s campouts and will work closely with the new editor. Remember it requires all of us to participate to continue this activity we love.

Laura Ramsey; ramseydp@comcast.net; (904) 463-7004

Chapter Representatives

- 001 GARDEN STATE SQUARE DANCE CAMPERS; NJ/PA**
Ron & Pauline VandeVrede; (973) 343-3152; vandevrede@optonline.net
Geographic Center: Parsippany, New Jersey
- 002 PINE TREE; WI**
Tricia Chartier; (414) 807-4083; TriciaMooLady@gmail.com
Geographic Center: Milwaukee
- 014 BLACKHAWK CROSSTRAILERS; IL**
Bob & Cinda Asp; (815) 262-9080; sgbobasp@aol.com
Geographic Center: Rockford
- 021 ROVIN' SQUARES; PA**
Park & Kathy Bierbower; (717) 300-5111; scoutguyone@gmail.com
Geographic Center: Central PA
- C028 SWING 'N' CANADIANS; ON**
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- 031 BADGER ROVERS; WI**
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- 044 ILLIANA SQUARE WHEELERS; IL/IN**
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Geographic Center: Chicago, IL
- 045 PENN DIXIE SQUARE CAMPERS; PA/MD**
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Geographic Center: Chambersburg, PA
- 055 FIRELITERS; IA**
Gene Boelsen; (641) 749-2416
Geographic Center: Garner
- 061 DAKOTA WHEELERS; SD**
Keith & Kari Pillatzke; (605) 886-7915; kpillatzke@hotmail.com
Geographic Center: State of SD
- 063 DIAMOND LACE-A-WAYS; DE/MD**
Bill & Pat Thompson; (302) 875-2812; chicken35@comcast.net
Geographic Center: Milford
- 066 TRADE-BY-TRAVELERS; IL**
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Geographic Center: Aurora
- 075 TRAIL'N' SQUARES; IL**
Margie Nightingale; (309) 781-1324
Geographic Center: Moline, IL
- 076 RIVER CITIES TRAVELIN SQUARES; IA**
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Geographic Center: Davenport
- 085 MOBILE SQUARES; CO/NE**
Ron Skaley; (970) 381-5642; rskaley@msn.com
Geographic Center: Greeley, CO

- 106 SQUARE-UP CAMPERS; PA/MD**
Dave & Kim Black; 717-367-8950
Geographic Center: Mechanicsburg, PA
- 107 HOOSIER SWINGING SQUARES; IN**
Scott & Kay Reinhold; (574) 309-3492; historian@nsdca.org
Geographic Center: LaPaz
- 116 CAMPING SQUARES OF KANSAS; KS**
Frank & Marty Golden; (316) 943-4137; fmgolden9515@sbcglobal.net
Geographic Center: Wichita
- 119 WANDER YONDERS; WY**
Leo & Diana Fergel; (307) 635-7312; lfergel@bresnan.net
Geographic Center: Cheyenne
- 123 SWING-N-TRAVELERS; IL**
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Geographic Center: Pontiac
- 128 SQUARE WHEELS; FL**
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Geographic Center: Gainesville
- 148 ROLLING SQUARES; NE/IA**
Ryan & Kristi Hruska; (402) 690-4772; rkhruska@cox.net
Geographic Center: Omaha
- 152 CAMPERS & DANCERS; AL**
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Geographic Center: Birmingham
- C175 RIVERSIDE GYPSY SQUARES; ON/QC/NY**
Helen MacCallum; (613) 330-4873; helenmaccallum@sympatico.ca
Geographic Center: Delta, ON, CA
- 181 MONTSHIRE CAMPIN' SQUARES; NH/VT**
Arlo & Norma Burns; (603) 927-4454; njburns40@gmail.com
Geographic Center: Lower Waterford, VT
- 193 FLORIDA ROADRUNNER SQUARES; FL**
John Ide; (352)-208-5980; john.d.ide@hotmail.com
Geographic Center: Port St. Lucie
- 196 WABASH VALLEY WHEEL AROUNDS; IN/IL/OH**
Daniel & Marian Hatfield; (618) 554-3929; danandmarian@hotmail.com
Geographic Center: Indianapolis, IN

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



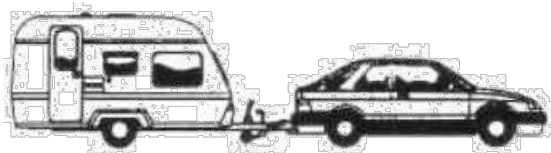
of continuous service on the Board, former vice presidents Roy Huddleston & Priscilla Newton have stepped up and were elected president; an introduction to our Association’s new vice presidents, John & Katharina Harden, may be found on page 6. There’s also a report from the 2026 International Camporee Chairs as well as highlights from the Annual Meeting.

I have been informed that some of our members are finding it difficult to view the *TIMES* online. As such, a tutorial on how to accomplish this task may be found on page 45. This tutorial was put together before I was informed the Board is considering eliminating the print issue of the *TIMES* and going all-digital (which means it will only be available online) or providing the option to pay more for the print issue. The Board’s concern stems from rising mailing costs; our annual dues barely cover the printing and postage. A link to a survey (if you haven’t spotted it already) to inform the Board of your opinion on an all-digital *TIMES* issue is on page 4 as well as on page 11.

Here’s a gentle reminder to the wonderful Chapter Reporters: please note campouts that occur *after* you write your ‘Chapter Chat’ submission but *before* the issue date of the newsletter should be referred to in the past tense, as they will have occurred before our membership receives their copy of the *TIMES*. I’ll make the adjustment when it slips by, but my wording regarding the event may be different than what you would have chosen. Thank you.

Lastly, not to beat a dead horse, please remember that your editor is retiring after this year’s Winter issue. Letting the Board know you either agree or not to have a digital edition of your newsletter will be a moot point if there is no editor. As mentioned in the last issue, the job is not terribly taxing, and – if an all-digital edition is approved by the Board – the task of assembling the newsletter will be simplified significantly and can be done with a word processor like Microsoft’s *Word* or Apple’s *Pages*. We need someone to volunteer to assume the position of editor. Yes, it helps to have a decent understanding of grammar, punctuation and composition, but the word processors identified have built-in tools to help in those areas, and who knows what artificial intelligence can do for you. I’m old-fashioned and don’t use AI (for writing, anyway—the cover photo was produced using Microsoft’s Copilot AI), but that does not mean that you couldn’t or shouldn’t see how it can make your job as editor easier. Please contact me or a Board member to discuss the position.

Thank you.



"GOLDEN JUBILEE"

FANSDC
CAMPOREE

3 Full Days of
Fun & Dancing



October
22, 23 & 24
2026



Cheers to 50 Years



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Camping Rally Rate \$40.00 /night - Area Motels are available for our non-campers.

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You don't want to miss this one!

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additional \$5.00 after Oct. 1, 2026

"2026" 50th Camporee Golden Girls:

Pat Herscha, Laura Ramsey & Marilyn Scott
(904) 673-2896 pehtah@yahoo.com

"2026" 50th Camporee Co-Chairs:

Wendy Brock & Dee Casteel
(269) 362-1436 billandwendybrock@yahoo.com

Square Dancing

Round & Line Dancing

Crafts & Games

Workshops After Parties

Saturday Night Catered Dinner

(‘VP’ continued from page 6)

Katharina has been square dancing since she was eight years old (40 years!) and learned to square dance in Lockport, IL. She has attended 35 National Square Dance conventions, many, many State conventions, two NSDCA International Camporees, and uncountable festivals. John started square dancing after Katharina and her family talked him into taking lessons in 2006.

John is a veteran who proudly served in the U.S. Army and the Oregon Army National Guard. He’s attended 17 National Conventions, 15 IL State Conventions, and many other State Conventions around the country. In 2017, John picked up a microphone and attended his first Caller school, and he has been actively calling and teaching square dance ever since.

Our kids (Ruth, age 15 and Nathaniel, age 12) are both accomplished square dancers and have been going to square dance activities literally since before birth. Nathaniel is also an up-and-coming Caller.

We joined Pine Tree Chapter #002 in 2024 and attended our first NSDCA Camporee in Shreveport, LA, and we had a blast! The Camporee in Belleville was even more fun, and we had a great time getting to know all the Texas campers!!

We’re looking forward to being involved with the NSDCA and bringing new ideas and updates to what is already a wonderful organization. We will be representing the NSDCA at upcoming conventions in Wisconsin, Tennessee, Arkansas, Indiana, and wherever else the road takes us. We’ll be working with the Board to look at updates to the website and materials. We are looking to help expand Square Dancers awareness of the National Square Dance Campers Association and Square Dance camping, and hopefully with development of new NSDCA Chapters, while encouraging Square Dancers to get involved with the existing (and new) Chapters.

See you all in a square and/or around the campfire!

John and Katharina Harden

The 2026-2027 BoD (L to R): Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, President



(‘Secretary’ continued from page 7)

your photos and important files are backed up to the cloud. Neal had just backed up his computer, but the external hard drive was sitting beside his recliner and was destroyed in the fire.

Our restoration company told us this was considered a major loss. It was a three-alarm fire, which meant three different fire departments responded. I was already at the hospital by the time they all arrived. Neal and I believe it will cost close to **\$1 million** to rebuild and restore our home. We truly cannot stress enough how important it is to have good insurance coverage.

Looking ahead, we're going to start searching for a new female dog. We plan to adopt, but we're going to wait until our travel schedule settles down so we can give her the time and attention she deserves.

Thank you to everyone who has supported, encouraged, and prayed for us over these past several months. Your kindness has meant more than you'll ever know. ♥

Tricia & Neal Chartier



AFTERTHOUGHTS

I'm sure we've all seen bumper stickers or decorative license plates like those below. The license plate on the left was on an RV at the 2025 Florida State Camporee; unfortunately I did not make a note of whose unit it was. I must admit, the one on the right hits home for me. Thank goodness for GPS and my wonderful navigator, who also keeps a look-out for traffic further up on our route!

Send your photo of an interesting sign sighted on your travels to NSDCAtimes@gmail.com. Please be sure to identify the location (if you can remember!) and, if a campground, provide a brief write-up of the facility.

Thank you. *Your NSDCA Editor*



**I HAVE NO
IDEA WHERE
I'M GOING**

NSDCA Chapters

AL	152
CO	085
DE	063
FL	128, 193
IA	055, 076, [148]
IL	014, 044 , 066, 075, 123, [196]
IN	[044], 107, 196
KS	116
MD	[045], [063], [106]
NE	[085], 148
NH	[181]
NJ	001
NY	[175C]
OH	[196]
PA	[001], 021, 045 , 106
QC	[175C]
SD	061
VT	181
WI	002, 031
WY	119
ON	028C, 175C

[...] Brackets indicates that the Chapter covers more than one state or province.

Bold indicates that multi-state/province Chapter is home-based in that state/province

Use of the NSDCA Logo

When using one of the NSDCA logos (shown below) do not include the ® (Registration symbol for Trademark).

If you have questions about the use of the NSDCA logo, contact a Board member for further clarification.

Thank you.





The
Cooks
→
The
Clean-up



The Grand March



Thank You to Pam
for the great photos!



Congratulations to Chapter 128 - '45' Years

Congratulations to Chapter 152 - '40' Years

Congratulations to Chapter 196 - '10' Years



2026 NSDCA Board of Directors



John & Dolly Retiring Presidents



Welcome to the BOD John & Katarina Hardin



Roy & Priscilla New Presidents



Linda & Ernie Ellis
All the way from California



HAVE YOU MOVED?
Notify: NSDCA
P.O. Box 241
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**July 8, 9 & 10
2027**

Lebanon, Tennessee

