

SOUTHEAST AREA SQUARE DANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maverick Monarchs
Pepper Steppers
Pikes Peak Plus
Royal Gorge Promenaders
Waggin' Wheelers

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Welcome Young Square Dancers!

Did you know that each of our recent and current square dance classes have included youngsters and young adults? Square dancing is a great multi-generational activity and here in the Southeast area we are excited to hit the square with these younger dancers. Their energy is contagious!



The wide smiles show how much our young dancers enjoy square dancing. We need more of these fresh faced folks . . . cause they're fun, and because they're the future of square dancing!

Sarah Lang, our SEASDC Board Secretary, says that her children took lessons at the ages of 10 and 11 and now, two years later, are helping to introduce friends to the fun of the square! She is planning to take several of these young dancers to Grand Junction for the State Festival and has arranged for campsites to accommodate up to nine young dancers!

~ continued on page 4 ~

My Week at Cuer School

by Denise Berens

The Rocky Mountain Round Dance Teacher's College was held at the Maple Grove Grange in Wheat Ridge, Colorado on March 23-28, 2025. Attending this college were 17 cuers/ partners from Colorado, Ohio, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

Round dancing is our passion, and Gene and I were very fortunate to be able to attend this week-long event with the help of a generous gift from an anonymous donor. It was five days filled with learning, evaluating, researching, and connecting with other cuers. It was five days of growth in our round dance partnership.

John and Karen Herr were the instructors for this course. As a team, these two are dynamic, entertaining, and full of knowledge and experience. They have given much to the round dance world at the local, state, and national levels in cueing, teaching, and leadership. Colorado is very fortunate to have such a "Dynamic Duo" for our round dancers.

~ continued on page 4 ~

Caller's Corner

In the Swing of Things

by Jeff Palmer

This has been a great season for square dance classes for our Southeast Area clubs. Most clubs enjoyed larger than normal class attendance this year. Fantastic!



To our seasoned dancers: Since our new graduates will be joining us, possibly for the first time at our club dances, we need to realize that they have been through a rather rigorous adventure in learning to square dance.

In around fourteen weeks, these new dancers have in essence been learning a new language, learning to move and respond in a fashion that is most likely very foreign to them. And, they had to perform as an individual in a team setting which is a huge undertaking.

Naturally, our new additions to our awesome activity will not be able to perform square dance movements nearly as proficiently as those of us who have been dancing regularly, even if only for a year. Please try to remember the apprehension, nervousness, and intimidation that you likely experienced as a new dancer at your club, or even scarier, dancing as a new dancer guest at a different club.

We need to remain patient and understanding with our new dancers as it's quite possible that a fun and exciting time square dancing for them might be the result of how you treat them. It's also possible that a positive experience may entice some of these new dancers to become club officers, council members, club representatives, or awesome volunteers for this activity that we all love so much. Your new corner in the square could possibly be the future president for your club!

To our newly graduated dancers: A big "Welcome" to you and congratulations on persevering through many

weeks of square dance lessons. Hopefully you enjoyed your lessons. Now you can get out and really begin to experience the wonderful world of square dancing. Just a few suggestions for you as you enter this new fun and exciting adventure.

1. Please join and participate in dancing with the club that sponsored your lessons. The more floor time you get, the better your dancing expertise will become and the more fun your square dancing experience will be. If you don't use it. You'll lose it! Quickly!
2. When out dancing and your fellow classmates are there with you, refrain from having all new class members join the same square. Split up and dance with more experienced dancers as this will improve your odds of being successful.
3. If by chance that you experience an "Oscar the Grouch" dancer in your square, (*this is rare but does happen*) simply dance, complete the tip, and avoid, if possible, joining that square again. Unless you're a little on the onery side then feel free to join the square as many times as possible. 😊
4. New dancers often hesitate when a call is called. Unfortunately, this will cause you to get behind when dancing. The more hesitation, the further behind you will become. We understand that as a new dancer your reaction time and familiarity with the calls/movements is going to be slower than that of experienced dancers. This is why floor time is so very important, especially when you first graduate. The more you dance, the more familiar and at ease you will become. It does take practice to become a good dancer.
5. Own the call! As new dancers you may have come to depend on others to guide you through the call(s). Generally speaking, you need to become

independent and be able to know what to do when a call is called and not depend on someone else help as you move through the call. Own the call!

6. Only dance the level that you have been taught. For most of us here in the Southeast Area this will be the SSD program. Do not dance Mainstream, Plus, or Advanced tips or dances until you've learned how to dance the additional moves. If you try to dance above your level, you will be totally blown away as moves will be called that you have no idea how to do and you will quickly break your square down. You won't win any popularity contests either!
7. Go visit other clubs that dance SSD. Waggin Wheelers, Pepper Steppers, Monarch Mavericks, and the Royal Gorge Promanders all dance SSD. You will enjoy dancing with new folks and different callers. This will provide you with great dance experiences.
8. You may struggle some at first, but don't give up!!!! Keep dancing! You won't get better by staying home and you don't want to miss out on all of the future great times that you will experience.
9. Don't miss the upcoming Tumbleweed Jamboree; a dance that is geared to new dancers. Why not check out the State Festival in Grand Junction. Festival dancing has been described as "square dancing on steroids". There are lots of awesome opportunities out there to enhance your dancing experience.
10. A couple of etiquette items: Don't pass up a square that needs a couple(s) to fill their square to join another square. If you don't have a partner, do not go to a square until you have secured a partner first. Don't leave a square once you've joined it.

There is much more that could be added to this but, I've probably already been too wordy. So square up and have fun!

Stack the Wood and Stir the Bucket — Glossary of Square Dance Terms

- ♦ Angel: An experienced dancer who helps to teach newcomers.
- ♦ Buckskin stealing: Dancers from a visiting square dance club "borrow" the host club's banner, until the visit is reciprocated and skin returned.
- ♦ Corner: The person closest to you who is not in your couple. For boys, the person to the left. For girls, the person to the right.
- ♦ Home position: Your position within the square at the beginning of dance.
- ♦ Hot Hash - A patter call where the tempo of the calling is done at a fast pace and the dancers are to flow from one move to another without pauses.
- ♦ Mainstream level: A beginning level of square dancing, with 68 calls.
- ♦ Patter call: A single tune without lyrics, used by a caller as background for a series of calls.
- ♦ Patter Call - Patter calls, also known as hash calls, are based on a quick succession of spoken or sing-song delivered dance maneuvers usually accompanied by music that it is not necessarily recognizable as a song.
- ♦ Plus level: The second level of square dancing, with 100 calls.
- ♦ Singing Call - Based on a sung delivery of calls, most often to a recognizable melody. Calls are mixed in with the song's original lyrics.
- ♦ Square your sets: The caller is requesting everyone return to home positions.
- ♦ Stir the bucket: Entire eight person square shifts one position counter-clockwise.
- ♦ Square - A configuration of 4 couples. The couples are designated "Heads" and "Sides".
- ♦ Stack the wood: A hug with your partner.
- ♦ Tip - A set of two square dances usually starting with a Patter Call followed by a Singing Call.
- ♦ Yellow rock: A friendly hug with your corner.

The Rest of the Story

Young Dancers, *continued*

Watch future newsletters to hear from some of our young dancers who will share their experiences and maybe even give us some advice on how to welcome even more of their peers to the wonderful world of square dancing.



Some of our new young dancers—and Jeff Palmer—helped demonstrate square dancing at last year's State Fair.



A REALLY young "dancer". Mom Amy, and her two kids, Caden and Ivy are recent graduates of the Maverick Monarchs. Six month old Brooke sometime joined Mom as she danced around the square.

My Week at Cuer School, *continued*

Watching the interaction between John and Karen was a beautiful lesson in partnership. By their example, John with his serious side and Karen with her wit and playful side, a perfect balance was presented, showing the importance of partnership in life and in dance.

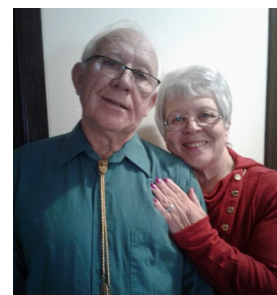
The Round Dance Teacher's course addressed many topics within a short timeframe. There were discussions on the business aspects of round dance including record keeping, insurance, marketing, and licensing. The music element of round dance centered around rhythms and their characteristics. There were sections on technology and equipment, including speakers, microphones, computers, and recordings. Informative talks were also presented on cueing, teaching, and dance leadership.

A unit on Roundalab and its resources was presented which demonstrated the wealth of information that can be accessed by members, and with some limits, nonmembers also. Roundalab is the resource for cuers researching songs, music, and cuesheets for dances, but it is so much more. The Roundalab resources contain information on the teaching progression of moves to make learning smooth and more natural. There are videos for purchase that demonstrate and teach dance steps and style. Located within the Roundalab resources are a large selection of interesting articles and topics to explore along with networking possibilities. There is a link for locations of dance workshops, dance classes, and round dance conventions, and another link will research out a list of Classic and Golden Classic dances and Rounds of the Quarter. Roundalab is a wealth of information with the click of a tab.

Being with John and Karen and other cuers from across the United States was an educational and meaningful experience for us. As dancers, Gene and I now appreciate the importance of continuing to dance and stay active in our area by attending local and state festivals. As teachers, we learned that addressing the different types of learning styles of the dancers along with body mechanics and flow will help ease their ability to acquire new moves. As cuers, we understand that focusing on program variety based on all dancers, from beginner to the more experienced, is vital to the success of the dance and the dancers. Most importantly of all, we learned to just be ourselves and make sure everyone has FUN.

It would take a lifetime of cueing and dancing to put into practice all that was presented by John and Karen in this one-week Round Dance Cuer's College. For us, attending the College was truly a once in a lifetime, enlightening experience. Thank you to all the dancers that support us, and support round dancing, for making this week happen.

Our heartfelt gratitude to all,
Denise and Gene Berens



SEASDC News

SEASDC and Member Clubs Help a Caller in Need

As you may know, Joe Saltel is a fun and well-known international square dance caller. He has called for many festivals, conventions, and special dances in over 40 states and numerous foreign countries. He and Mike Hogan called SEASDC's High Country Weekend in 2023.

Unfortunately, Joe took a bad fall a while back and as a result of complications he is going to lose his left lung. He has also had blood clots in his right lung.



Joe enjoys what he calls his vocation and avocation, and feels fortunate to be part of the great activity of square dancing.

Unfortunately, his progress is not what any of us would like to see. Joe and his wife Chris are having challenges with their insurance company's willingness to pay for some necessary tests and procedures. We all know how expensive medical treatment can be.

After talking to Chris about Joe's progress, Ken Tucker felt the need to help. He sent an appeal to the Southeast Area Clubs with a request for them to donate their share of their 50/50 raffles to a fund to help cover Joe's medical expenses.

The first dance after the request was made was held by the Pueblo Pepper Steppers. The dance, called by Jerry Gilbreath of Albuquerque, was well attended and the Pepper Steppers raised \$96 for their half of the 50/50. They donated all of it to Joe's Fund. In addition, the raffle winner graciously donated his winnings to the fund.

Collections and donations will continue through the end of the month.

If you'd like to donate to Joe's Fund, contact Ken Tucker at (719) 458-9700. After June 1, please donate directly to the Saltel's at 1401 Cage Boulevard, Unit 126, Pharr, TX 78577.

Stay tuned to the next Bulletin for a follow-up on funds collected and an update on how Joe is doing.



Some years ago, dancers gathered on the Royal Gorge Bridge to square up. We've been searching for some details on this dance, but have been unsuccessful to date. If you participated, or know anything about the Bridge Dance, let us know and we'll include an update in the next edition.

Are you interested in being a caller or cuer? Are you a caller or cuer who would like to enhance your skills? Grant funding is available. Contact SEASDC Treasurer Craig Galler at treasurer@squaredanceseasdc.org or call him at (602) 616-4253 to learn more.

SEASDC Club News

Monarch Mavericks

After 14 weeks of lessons with the Maverick Monarchs, 17 students graduated and were deemed Social Square Dancers on April 26. Graduates received a certificate of completion, along with a bag of goodies. They also received their club badge. An SSD only dance followed at the Legion Hut in Salida and the new dancers did great. It was speculated that the badges gave the dancers new confidence.

Weekly classes started on January 16 and concluded April 24. The Monarch's class included some younger dancers including an infant who occasionally joined mom on the floor! Hal Barnes was the class instructor and Holly Householder served as Class Facilitator. Monarch members served as Angels.

The Monarchs are working to support their new dancers and are holding a month's worth of post-graduation workshops to provide additional floor time enabling the new dancers to become more comfortable dancing.

The club is looking forward to Tumbleweed Jamboree and planning a cookout for one of their July dances.

The Monarch Mavericks dance on 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the American Legion Hut located at 235 West 10th Street in Salida. SSD dancing takes place from



Recent Maverick Monarch graduates proudly pose with their certificates of completion after completing 14 weeks of classes with instructor Hal Barnes.

2:00 to 4:00 p.m., with pre-rounds at 1:00 p.m. and Plus dancing at 1:30 p.m.

Monarch Mavericks Board

President - Ken Tucker

Vice President - Craig Galler

Secretary - Holly Householder

Treasurer - Kim Kastens

Senior Rep - Sylvia Armijo

Junior Rep - Lil Bargas

Pepper Steppers

The Pueblo Pepper Steppers current class will graduate on May 17th during their regular Saturday dance. The club is delighted that several young members who first took lessons two years ago at the ages of ten and eleven have been sharing the fun of square dancing with their friends. And as a result, this class included more new youth dancers! Mike Bentley is our caller instructor.

Sarah Lang, mother of several young Pepper Steppers, plans to take several young dancers to this year's state festival in Grand Junction;



Pepper Steppers students and angels are enjoying the extra space available at their new dance locale. Mike Bentley was their instructor.

Club News #2

camping with them at a state park. How awesome to see multigenerational dancers having fun together! On and off the dance floor.

We love our new location. We have been dancing at the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church since New Year's Eve. The building is newer with central air conditioning - not swamp coolers - and offers us more space. For example, we had six (6) squares at our May 3 dance with Jerry Gilbreath. We could never have accommodated that many dancers at our old locale. In addition, the space is easy to sound for callers and offers a full-service kitchen.

We have a new website. Check it out by [clicking here](#). Thanks to Leslie Klusemire for developing the new site, with assistance from Sarah Lang.

We welcome all dancers to join us in our new venue at Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, located at 3913 Sandalwood Lane in Pueblo. We dance on the 1st and 3rd Saturday afternoons of each month with Plus at 1:30 p.m. and SSD starting at 2:00 p.m.

Pepper Steppers Board

President - Sarah and Ron Lang
Vice President - Sylvia Armijo
Secretary - Mike Bentley
Treasurer - Denise Berens
Senior Rep - Vacant
Junior Rep - Vacant

Pikes Peak Plus

Pikes Peak Plus (PPP) continues to host great Plus dances on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at the International Dance Club in Colorado Springs. Our leadership is exploring ways to grow the club's membership, so if you are a Plus dancer and have not yet joined, please do so!

Pikes Peak Plus is partnering with area callers Hal Barnes, Jeff Palmer, and Debbie Steinkirchner to offer Plus lessons this fall. Lessons will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning September 9th, with a tentative completion date of December 18th. If you have at least a year's worth of SSD floor time and are not yet a Plus dancer or if you would like a refresher, please let us know and we'll put you on the list to keep you informed as class plans progress! Reach out to any board member to learn more.

Be sure to join us at our next dance on May 23rd. We dance at the International Dance Club located at 2422 Busch Avenue in Colorado Springs. Hal Barnes is our club caller and he begins each dance with a workshop starting at 6:30 p.m. Our regular dance begins at 7 p.m.

Pikes Peak Plus Board

President – Cheryl Mahon
Vice President – Larylee Hitchens
Secretary – Janet Burns
Treasurer – Ron Ruckdeschel
Senior Rep – Susan Swank
Junior Rep - Vacant

Royal Gorge Promenaders

The big news is that our NEW WEBSITE is LIVE (*while still under construction*). A ROYAL Thanks to Shellie Buseti for her many hours of work and expertise to bring this website to life. Check it out by clicking [here](#).

The spring/summer SSD class is roughly a third of the way through. Twenty students, including a few dancers who were once members of the historic Royal Gorge Promenaders, are in the class. The class sweetheart is youth dancer Pearl, who learned about us from the local 4H club and is loving learning to square dance!!

We are so thankful for Angel support from our sister SEASDC clubs. It is wonderful to have an abundance of

Club News #3

Angels, as they really help our students to learn and to progress. Graduation is anticipated to take place in mid-July. We are creating a special dangle dance for our new graduates.



Students learn to dance and angels help them out at a Royal Gorge Promenaders recent class. As a new club, RPG, sincerely thanks angels from other clubs who join them each week to help new dancers.

RPG invites you to attend our Purple Heart Dance on Wednesday July 16th. Loren Behm from Tulsa (*formerly from Denver*) will be our caller. We are asking dancers to wear purple or lavender if possible. If you can help with refreshments, please add a little purple (*purple cabbage, purple grapes, black raspberries, etc.*). Callers from the Southeast Colorado area as well as those from throughout the state are being invited to dance with us. Recent graduates and veteran dancers are encouraged to meet us across the square. Our hope is to have a minimum of six to eight callers as dancers and to introduce new graduates to callers they have never met.

Mark your calendars for July 16 and come visit beautiful Canon City!! The Purple Heart dance will take place from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Golden Age Center, 728 Main Street in Canon City. We dance on the second Wednesday of each month. We would

love to have you join us anytime .

Royal Gorge Promenaders Board

President - Susan Levy

Vice President - Larry Richards

Secretary - Debbie Jones

Co-Treasurers - Shellie Buseti and Candie Day

Senior Rep - Vacant

Junior Rep - Vacant

Waggin' Wheelers

Waggin' Wheelers recently graduated 24 new dancers ranging in age from 8 to almost 90! Jeff Palmer and Debbie Steinkirchner were our instructors.

Many graduates attended their first real dance with the Pueblo Pepper Steppers on May 3rd with Jerry Gilbreath where a great time was had by all!

The club is supporting new dancers with several practice dances to sharpen their skills. These dances are held on Tuesday evenings, May 13th and 20th, at 6:30 pm. Angels are needed so all new and experienced dancers are invited to join us!



Recent Waggin Wheelers graduates proudly pose with their certificates and with instructors Debbie Steinkirchner and Jeff Palmer.

Club News #4

We dance on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday of each month at the International Dance Club at 2422 Busch Avenue in Colorado Springs. Come on out and join us!

Waggin Wheeler's Board

President—Chris Schlumpf

Vice President - Walt Bub

Treasurer - Gayle Short

Secretary - Lisa Bub



State Festival Needs A Solo Coordinator

Greetings from "Gatsby's Alive in 2025"

We need your help. We are looking for someone or someone(s) to take on the responsibility of being the Solo Chairperson for our Festival.

If you are willing to help us with this part of the Festival, Please give us a shout. You can email us at:

Pandapw3138@gmail.com. Thanks in advance for all your help with this aspect of our party.

Pat and Wanda McBride, Chaircouple

Contact Information for SEASDC Clubs

Are you new to square dancing in southeast Colorado? Wondering how to learn more about square dancing with SEASDC Clubs? Check out our area clubs' emails, websites, and Facebook pages.

Monarch Mavericks

Facebook Page: Monarch Mavericks Square Dance Club
Salida Colorado

Email: monarchmavericks@gmail.com

Website: <https://monarchmavericks.com>

Pikes Peak Plus

Facebook Page: Pikes Peak Plus

Email: pikespeakplus@outlook.com

Website: None at this time

Pueblo Pepper Steppers

Facebook Page: Pueblo Pepper Steppers Square Dance

Email: inthedenllc@aol.com

Website: <https://peppersteppers.org>

Royal Gorge Promenaders

Facebook Page: Royal Gorge Promenaders

Email: Royalgorgepromenaders@gmail.com

Website: <https://royalgorgepromenaders.com>

Waggin' Wheelers

Facebook Page: Waggin Wheelers

Email: wagginwheelers@gmail.com

Website: None at this time

Square Dance: The Colorado State Folk Dance

Introduced by House Bill No. 1058, the square dance was adopted by the Colorado General Assembly as the official state folk dance of Colorado on March 16, 1992. Modern western square dance clubs across the country have collaborated to have the Square Dance declared the state folk dance in all fifty states. They have also been active in efforts to make the Square Dance the national folk dance.



President's Corner

Going to a Festival? Please Register Early!

My husband Craig and I are fairly new square dancers. We graduated in December of 2022 with Michael Turley and the Maverick Monarchs. We did as recommended for new dancers and hit the floor as often as we could, traveling to Pueblo to dance with the Pepper Steppers on the Saturdays the Monarchs didn't dance. The extra floor time gave us the confidence we needed to attend our first festival.

So off to Golden we went for the 2023 Colorado State Square Dance Festival. Buddy Weaver was the featured caller and we quickly learned to pick up our pace for his speed of calling was fast. It would be hard to say who had more fun, Buddy or the dancers. Dancing at a Festival is simply indescribable. You can dance for days, meet some great folks and square up to world class callers, each with their own style and personality, and always fun. A first-time attendee at last year's State Festival in Pueblo described it as "dancing on steroids".

Having done conference planning in a prior life, I understand the importance of registering early. Early registration is extremely helpful to the event planners as it allows them time to ensure they have enough of . . . well, everything. Registration bags, meals, seating, and more are all planned weeks or months before attendees arrive. Registering late, or at the door, could cause challenges for the event team.

If you know you're attending a Festival, *please* register early. Your consideration in doing so will be a huge help to the folks behind the scenes making plans to ensure dancers have a great time. An upcoming Festival in the Southeast Area is Southeast Swing, taking place in late October. True, it's months away, but it's never too early to register.

June is the Colorado State Festival in Grand Junction. If you're going, now is definitely the time to register.

Colorado is hosting the 2027 National Square Dance Convention in Loveland. It seems a long way away, but

it's not too early to register. The planning team would love it if you'd register now as they're hoping to have 500 Colorado dancers attend. Texas already has 500 Texans signed up for next year's Convention and Colorado would love to beat Texas' record. A Festival of several thousand dancers really needs advanced notice to help the team with massive planning needs.

Registration can be completed online or by mail. Learn more – and register - at each of these Colorado Festivals at their websites:

- ♦ [Southeast Swing](#)
- ♦ [2025 Colorado State Square Dance Festival](#)
- ♦ [2027 National Square Dance Festival](#)

If you've never been to a Festival, I urge you to check one out. You are sure to have a blast. Just remember to please register early.

See you across the square!

Sheila Prior
SEASDC President



2025 Proposed Council Meeting Schedule

July 12	Salida
September 19	Pueblo

We want to hear from you . . .

Do you have a story you'd like to see included in a future edition of The Bulletin? Send your idea, or better yet, your article, to newsletter@squaredanceseasdc.org.

Let's Dance!

MAY			
DATE	CLUB	CALLER/CUER	THEME
5/9/25	Pikes Peak Plus	Hal Barnes/Denise Berens	National Lost Sock Day
5/10/25	Monarch Mavericks	Hal Barnes/Andrith Davis	Flowers for Mom
5/14/25	Royal Gorge Promenaders	Loren Behm	Happy Mother's Day
5/16/25	Waggin' Wheelers	Jeff Palmer/Allyn Riggs	
5/17/25	Pepper Steppers	Bob & Allyn Riggs	14th Anniversary
5/23/25	Pikes Peak Plus	Hal Barnes/Andrith Davis	Grease-50's Dance
5/24/25	Monarch Mavericks	Patric Krause/Andrith Davis	Past Festival Outfits
5/31/25	Waggin' Wheelers	Bob Riggs/Denise Berens	
JUNE			
DATE	CLUB	CALLER/CUER	THEME
6/6/25	Waggin' Wheelers	Jeff Palmer/Andrith Davis	National Donut Day
6/7/25	Pepper Steppers	Debbie Steinkirchner	Rock n Roll Dance
6/11/25	Royal Gorge Promenaders	Mike Olivieri	Happy Father's Day
6/13/25	Pikes Peak Plus	DARK-State Festival	
6/14/25	Monarch Mavericks	DARK-State Festival	
6/20/25	Waggin' Wheelers	Jeff Palmer / Denise Berens	
6/21/25	Pepper Steppers	Mike Olivieri	Honoring Father's Day
6/27/25	Pikes Peak Plus	Hal Barnes/Andrith Davis	National Sunglasses Day

CHECK OUT THE NEW SEASDC WEBSITE AT

<https://squaredanceasdc.org/>

Thanks to Leslie Klusemire for all of her hard work to develop and maintain the website!

Still Dancing!

JULY			
DATE	CLUB	CALLER/CUER	THEME
7/4/25	Waggin' Wheelers	Dark-Fourth of July!	
7/5/25	Pepper Steppers	Dark-Fourth of July!	
7/9/25	Royal Gorge Promenaders	Todd Albright	Summertime
7/11/25	Pikes Peak Plus	Hal Barnes/Andrith Davis	Fireworks Dance
7/12/25	Monarch Mavericks	Molly Baines/Andrith Davis	Surfs Up, Dude!
7/16/25	Royal Gorge Promenaders	Loren Behm	Special Dance
7/18/25	Waggin' Wheelers	Debbie Steinkirchner/Andrith Davis	
7/19/25	Pepper Steppers	Todd Albright	America the Beautiful T-Shirt
7/25/25	Pikes Peak Plus	Hal Barnes/Denise Berens	Christmas in July
7/26/25	Monarch Mavericks	Hal Barnes/Andrith Davis	Hoedown
AUGUST			
DATE	CLUB	CALLER/CUER	THEME
8/1/25	Waggin' Wheelers	Jeff Palmer/Andrith Davis	Funny Tee Shirt Night
8/2/25	Pepper Steppers	Molly Blaney	Ice Cream Social with a Cherry On Top
8/8/25	Pikes Peak Plus	Hal Barnes/Denise Berens	National Happiness Day & Hal's Do Dah Dance
8/9/25	Monarch Mavericks	Bob and Allynn Riggs	Summer Casual
8/13/25	Royal Gorge Promenaders	Mike Olivieri	1 st Anniversary
8/15/25	Waggin' Wheelers	Debbie Steinkirchner	
8/16/25	Pepper Steppers	Bob and Allynn Riggs	Elvis Presley Night
8/22/25	Pikes Peak Plus	Bob and Allynn Riggs	National Tooth Fairy Day
8/23/25	Monarch Mavericks	Mike Olivieri/Andrith Davis	Aloha to Summer
8/29/25	Waggin' Wheelers	Jeff Palmer/Denise Berens	Sports Attire

With Love, from our Square Dance Community...

"There are no strangers here, only friends you haven't met."

-William Butler Yeats

Healing Prayers and Blessings

- ☼ Doyle Beach - illness
- ☼ Craig Galler - recovering from surgery
- ☼ Alan Hirsch - eye surgery
- ☼ Ben Johnson—blood infection / illness
- ☼ Mike Meachum - recovering from illness
- ☼ Roger Meston - rebuilding his immune system
- ☼ Debbie Palmer - medical tests and possible surgery
- ☼ Joe Saltel - illness
- ☼ Torrie Smith - health challenges
- ☼ Daniel Tafoya - illness
- ☼ Nick Taylor - ear and balance issues
- ☼ Ed Whittaker - surgery

Charles R. Swindoll said, "Life is 10-percent what happens to you and 90-percent how you react to it." Try to think of this as just another obstacle to overcome. You've got this!

"The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living" -

Marcus Tullius Cicero

In Memoriam: with grateful memories and much empathy

- ☼ Condolences to Pam Neal on the death of her father
- ☼ Condolences to Debbie Jones on the deaths of her mother and father
- ☼ Condolences to Elaine Barnes on the death of her brother
- ☼ Condolences to Chuck Percival on the death of his brother
- ☼ Condolences Sharon McCafferty on the death of her mother

If you know of a dancer who would appreciate a card, please send their name and address to:

Adria Tuttle ~ 719-948-5552 ~ adrlyntut@gmail.com OR

Fran Worthington ~ bfnworthington@aol.com

SEASDC Meeting Minutes

SEASDC Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2025

IDC, Colorado Springs

Present: Sheila Prior, President: Ken Tucker; Co-President; Sarah Lang, Secretary; Susan Swank, Pikes Peak Plus Rep / Bulletin Editor; Keith German, Senior Rep / Waggin Wheeler's Rep; Dawn German, Junior Rep / Waggin Wheeler's Rep; Lil Bargas, Maverick Monarch's Rep; Sylvia Armijo, Maverick Monarch's Rep; Via Zoom: Susan Levy, Royal Gorge Promenader's Rep; Mike Bentley, Pepper Stepper Rep; Craig Galler, Treasurer

Sheila welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

Meeting Minutes - Sheila asked for any additions to corrections to the January minutes. Hearing none, Ken made a motion to approve minutes. Syl seconded. The motion passed.

Previous Action Items – A review of the Action Items list was completed.

- Bank Account - Ken Tucker, Craig Galler, and Lynn Boone have been added to the bank account and can now get their debit cards.
- SEASDC Assets - Sheila gave a last call to report assets.
- Insurance requirements - Ken reported that obtaining insurance is the responsibility of each club (whether to be on their own or with the state) and is not to the responsibility of SEASDC.
- Constitution / By Laws – Craig provided an update on revising the constitution and bylaws. The only club who's approved documents is the Monarchs.

ACTION: *Club representatives advise Craig of their approval and/or requested changes to the constitution and bylaws by April 18. No response will be deemed approved.*

- Operations Guide – There are only a few procedures left to write.

Bank Accounts - Craig researched bank accounts and interest rates and recommended closing both the savings and money market accounts and moving \$6,900 to a Barclays high yield savings account. Interest rates are expected to be between 3.6 and 4.1%. We would still have \$9,000 in the checking account. Syl made a motion to move \$6,900 to Barclays. Susan seconded. Passed unanimously.

ACTION: *Craig transfer funds to Barclay and close accounts at Glacier.*

Treasurer's Report - The 10-99 from the state festival went out late (March 3). We don't know yet if there are penalties as a result. We're registered for electronic filing now, so it won't be an issue next time. The next filing will be 990EZ. We have until May 15 to file. Current financials do not include the state festival financials which are on a separate ledger.

Craig explained the grant accounts. Profits from the Festival auction have been made available to the clubs. Each club needs to complete the Grant Reimbursement Request. The Royal Gorge Promenaders and Monarch Mavericks have submitted requests. Actual receipts or ledgers are required to show how the \$200 was spent.

SEASDC Meeting Minutes #2

Craig requested approval to move \$500 from the checking account into the Grant Fund so we can help the Royal Gorge Promenaders promote their new club if needed. Ken made a motion to move \$500 into the grant fund. Mike seconded. This passed unanimously.

Additional grant funding is available for anyone who wants to be a caller or cuer. Denise Berens recently completed cuer school with grant funding and reported learning many new things. Sheila suggested an article be include in The Bulletin encouraging new callers/cuers.

ACTION: *Craig draft article regarding the availability of grant funding for caller and cuer school.*

Craig expressed the need for an audit committee for the 2024 SEASDC books. The audit needs to be conducted in person before the next meeting. Council members will put out the word for people to volunteer for this committee.

ACTION: *Craig finalize audit committee and complete audit prior to the next meeting.*

State Festival - Sheila said she and Ken attended an audit of the State Festival financials. We passed with no issues. Ken is still trying to get a reimbursement from the University for a meeting room that wasn't used. CSSDA has agreed to reimburse half if we cannot get a refund.

CSSDA Update - Ken reported that CSSDA is creating a new website. One of their goals is to make the website more professional and easier to navigate. The Colorado website ranked 47th in a review of all state's websites.

Ken is working with the Colorado State Callers' Association to encourage clubs and callers to teach square dance etiquette.

The Bulletin - Susan Swank provided an update on The Bulletin. Our archived bulletins are on the state website. She has been sending The Bulletin as a pdf attachment, but the size is sometimes problematic. After discussion, the decision to send a link vs. a pdf attachment was made.

ACTION: *Sheila ask club Presidents to request dancers to sign up for and provide their email addresses to receive The Bulletin.*

ACTION: *All clubs to send Susan Swank photos of dances and events with information about the photo to include in The Bulletin.*

Hall of Fame and Lloyd Shaw Awards - Thanks to Ken for coordinating these awards, both of which will be presented at Tumbleweeds Jamboree. Discussed giving one award between each tip. Ken will send the write ups to Susan for The Bulletin. Pictures will be taken and included with the write-up. Recipients will receive a bar for their badge Ken proposed giving the historical plaque to the recipients who can display the plaque at their dance for the next year. The Council agreed.

Tumbleweeds Jamboree – This year's Jamboree will be held April 19 at IDC. Jeff Palmer and Debbie Steinkirchner are calling. Sheila asked everyone to help to provide snacks.

ACTION: *Council members encourage new dancers to attend the Jamboree. Bring snacks to the event.*

SEASDC Meeting Minutes #3

Southeast Swing – The renamed High Country Weekend is scheduled for the last weekend in October. Dressing up in costume will be encouraged for Halloween. We need to encourage people to register. Members were asked to talk it up at their clubs. Jett Roberts is calling and Mitchel Thompson is cuing.

ACTION: *Council members should encourage their club members to register for Southeast Swing. Publicize the Festival when attending other club's dances.*

Sunshine and Shadows - Susan Swank reported that Adria Tuttle has been mailing cards and sending Susan information for the newsletter. Adria has asked that with the high cost of postage if we want to continue doing so. The Council agreed this is a good practice and Adria should continue to facilitate reach out.

USDA – As USDA members, SEASDC is invited to attend the National meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana in July. Sheila asked if anyone wanted to attend on SEASDC's behalf. There were no volunteers.

Royal Gorge Bridge Dance – Susan reported that the Royal Gorge is willing to discuss opening the bridge for a square dance. As RPG does not have the capability to manage such an event, Susan asked SEASDC to do so. She will send Sheila contact information for the person she has talked to. Susan and Sheila will work to pull off the event for this fall.

ACTION: *Susan send Sheila Bridge contact. Sheila and Susan pursue a Fall dance on the bridge.*

RGP Update – Susan reported that Fremont County has named the Square Dance as an official folk dance of the County. They start classes on Monday, April 7.

Classes – Discussed the practice of clubs providing passes for new graduates.

ACTION: *Each club should give other clubs passes for new graduates for free dances. Make up packets for each graduate that include passes and flyers for Southeast Swing.*

Next Meeting - The next SEASDC meeting will be July 12 at 11 in Salida prior to the Monarch Mavericks dance.

Adjournment - Ken made a motion to adjourn. Syl seconded. The meeting ended at 6:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Lang, Secretary

American Folk Dance

What is American Folk Dance?

Information provided by Craig Galler

An American folk dance is a dance that originates as ritual among, and is characteristic of the common people of a country. It reflects the traditional life of a region and represents the dance forms of common people. The United States of America has a large diversity of cultures, and it shows through the variety of dances we have. A few famous folk dances from North America include contra dancing, square dancing and clogging, in addition to the dances of Native Americans. Here are some of the lesser-known American folk dances

1. Cajun Jig

Cajun is generally used to refer to the dances in Louisiana. Among its various forms, Cajun Jig (also known as Cajun One Step) is one of the simplest variations, hence it is usually associated and combined with a few more styles for better appearances.

2. Cajun Jitterbug

Jitterbug is another style of Cajun, usually known as Cajun Two-Step. The foundation built for Cajun Jitterbug also includes the waltz, although it traditionally didn't have intricate spins and turns.

While Cajun Jig is like a group dance with a big circle, Cajun Jitterbug is for duos. If you hold your partner, you are in a "closed" position; if you hold hands, it is an "open" position. Newer dancers perform Cajun Jitterbug with exaggerated and energetic moves. It's crucial to be on the balls of the feet and bend the knees so your dance feels more fluid. Masterful dancers tend to incorporate Mamou Two-Step, Whiskey River Jitterbug, or Whiskey River Two-Step for a creative touch.



You will have a good chance to see a Cajun dance at most festivals, celebrations, and parties in Louisiana. Fair warning: The rhythm and the uptempo in their music will make it hard for you to sit still!

3. Cakewalk Dance

The Cakewalk dance was one of the most popular dances in America, especially in the ballroom settings of the early 1900s. It was a satire on black slaves toward white people and their sophisticated ballroom traditions. Many couples will stand in a square formation surrounding the men and march around them to a lively rhythm. Based on the men's elegance, the women's grace, and overall creativity, judges will eliminate the contestant and reward the winner with a beautifully decorated cake.

Scholars consider the Cakewalk dance a valuable contribution to Latin American dances with a jazzy feeling, a good example of mocking your opponents and preserving your culture at the same time. If you hear someone saying "It is a cakewalk" or "Take the cake", you will be reminded of the brilliant tactics Black slaves utilized to resist the racism forced upon them.

4. Virginia Reel

As the name indicates, Virginia Reel is a duo dance that is most popular in Virginia. However, it was brought to the state during the colonial era of the English. Experts believe it might have gone even further back in Scotland during the 17th century. In America, the Virginia reel spread its influence quite widely, from Polish performances in the ballrooms to the more casual and lively versions we often see today. Either way, the double-line formation remains.

The "reel" feature in this dance is how the first couple in line switches to the end of the set after finishing their parts. When the performance concluded, every couple should have been at the head once. The Virginia reel is often danced to the sound of violin and calls, and the songs of choice are usually lively but old-fashioned.

5. Zydeco

The Zydeco dance is heavily tied to the corresponding syncopated music, which began to gain more attention as the 20th century approached. It is essentially a dance for couples, sometimes performed on stage or organized to be social.

A Zydeco performance tends to have a leader whose

steps will be mimicked, though it is not a strict rule that must be followed at all

costs. Several

figures feature

completely different steps that the dancers can improvise and express themselves. The Zydeco music is lively, hence the side steps are not wide and thus the upper body doesn't sway too much. Hip movements and jumps are not present in this dance either.

If you describe the direction of ballroom dance as "upwards", you can say Zydeco is the exact opposite.

Source: [List Of 8 Traditional American Dances](#), by Cora Harris, February 16, 2024



good to dance with any and all, sitting out the mixers, or leaving a square lest thou be required to dance with those whom though demist unworthy of thy talents, for the gods of retribution are zealous gods and will visit their mischief upon thee and thou wilt be the one to goof the square.

3. Thou shalt not forget that thou were once a beginner.
4. Thou shalt be exuberant, but thou shalt act thy age. Do not offend others by thy high flung legs and out-flared skirts.
5. Thou shalt go abroad and dance with other callers so that thy opinions expressed as to the merit of this one and that one are indeed based on facts.
6. Thou shalt not let the stranger in thy midst sit on the sidelines and cool his heels or fail to speak to him.
7. Thou shalt bathe diligently, that the sweet aroma of soap and shaving lotion may assail the nostrils of thy associates, leaving the more earthly smells to the farmyard.
8. Thou shalt take care that the words of thy mouth are not scented with garlic or beer.
9. Thou shalt honor thy club and give it thy loyalty, for if thou canst not do this, it were better to separate thyself from it and join thyself to another, whose methods, members, and callers are more to thy liking.
10. Thou shalt not kill thy club with bickering and fault finding.

Follow the above Ten Commandments, and thou shalt be guaranteed a good time at any square dance you attend, and further, will know that you have helped others to have a good time, too.

Square Dancer's Ten Commandments

This thought provoking set of "Ten Commandments" is taken from a very old American Square Dance magazine. A wise man once said that you will get out of life what you put into it. There is no doubt that this applies to Square Dancing too! The following "rules" are meant as good advice, and should be seen as a way of keeping our activity courteous, fun and fulfilling.

1. Thou shalt square dance only for the fun which thee will find in it.
2. Thou shalt not be a snob, considering thyself too

Upcoming Festivals

[Register Now . . . Click on the Link for More Info](#)

Instead of including flyers for upcoming festivals, we are trying something new and are providing links to festival websites. Click on the links below to learn more and/or register for upcoming festivals.

TUMBLEWEED JAMBOREE - May 31, 2025, Colorado Springs, Colorado *(see flyer on the following page)*

[SOUTHEAST SWING](#) - October 31—November 2, 2025, Pueblo, Colorado

[KANSAS STATE SQUARE DANCE FESTIVAL](#) - June 6-7 2025, Wichita, Kansas

[GATSBY TRAIL IN DANCE](#) - June 12, 2025, Grand Junction, Colorado

[COLORADO STATE SQUARE DANCE FESTIVAL](#) - June 13-14, 2025, Grand Junction, Colorado

[74th NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION](#) - June 25-28, 2025, Shreveport, Louisiana

[COOL MOUNTAIN FLING](#) - July 17-20, 2025, Show Low, Arizona

[USA WEST](#) - July 24-26, 2025, Spokane Washington

[HOT AUGUST NIGHTS](#) - August 15-17, 2025, Albuquerque, New Mexico

[NEW MEXICO ROUND DANCE FESTIVAL](#) - September 5-7, 2025, Albuquerque, New Mexico

[PEACH PROMENADE](#) - August 22-23, 2025, Grand Junction, Colorado

[NEBRASKA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE WEEKEND](#) - September 19-20, 2025, Hastings, Nebraska

[COLORADO ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION GALA](#) - October 3-4, 2025, Highlands Ranch, Colorado

[CORNUCOPIA JAMBOREE](#) - October 24-26, 2025 Cortez, Colorado

[75th NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION](#) - June 24-27, 2026, Waco, Texas

[76th NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION](#) - June 23-26, 2027, Loveland, Colorado



Tumbleweed Jamboree

RESCHEDULED for
MAY 31, 2025

Saturday, April 19, 2025

International Dance Hall
Colorado Springs

Schedule

12:45 – 1:30 New
Dancer Workshop

1:30-4:00 – SSD

Calling

Jeff Palmer &
Debbie
Steinkirchner

Dance Fee

Let's Square Up

\$10

International Dance Club

2422 Busch Avenue, Colorado Springs

The Workshop provides a great opportunity for new dancers to improve their skills. All are welcome. Come join us!