

# HOTLANTA SQUARES

# Hot Tips

MAY 2015

## IMPORTANT DATES

- May 18th  
Mainstream Class  
Graduation
- May 22 - 25  
IAGSDC 32nd  
Annual Convention  
Swing Me in Saint Louis
- June 20th Dance  
Swing into Summer  
with  
Rick Gittelman  
from  
Tucson, Arizona
- June 22, 2015 -  
Hotlanta Squares  
Board Elections
- August 1 Dance  
August Allemande  
with  
Johnny Preston  
from  
Temecula, CA
- September 18-19  
44th Annual GSSDA  
Convention  
(One Exit North of where  
we dance every week)
- September 26 Dance  
Flutter into Fall  
with  
Ken Ritucci  
from  
W. Springfield MA
- Jan. 15-17, 2016  
PDP 2016

## Birthdays

Clara Welch  
May 6th

Eddie Bishop  
May 13th

Dave Tillis  
May 18th

Mark Snider  
May 25th



## Swing Me in Saint Louis !

May 22 is just a few weeks away and so is the beginning of four days of Square Dancing and communing with friends gathered from LBGT Clubs from across the land! It is our biggest dance event of the year; it's the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual IAGSDC Convention.

But what is this I A G S D C you may say?

Below, Kent Tolleson gives us some history and background on IAGSDC.

In 1983 Modern Western Square Dancing (MWSD) took off and was popular as ever. The LGBTQ\* community wanted to be a part of this growing trend, but they met resistance from the straight square dance clubs around the country. So, the LGBTQ\* community decided to create their own square dance world and the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC) was formed.

The original Association was formed in 1983 at the South Florida Fly-in. Members in attendance at the Fly-in came from The South Florida Mustangs, Western Star Dancers of San Francisco, Mile High Squares of Denver and Puddletown Squares from Seattle. Although not represented at this meeting The New Year's Resolutions are also considered founding members of the IAGSDC. Unifying principles of the Association were adopted at this meeting. The first draft of proposed by-laws was presented to participating clubs at the

Reno Rodeo later that year. Seattle Washington was selected to host the first Convention and Harlan Kerr of (at that time) Seattle was chosen as the Association's interim Chair Person.

The IAGSDC supports gay and lesbian MWSD clubs worldwide, including the United States, Canada and Japan. Our organization was formed by and for lesbians and gay men and for their friends. You do not have to identify as gay or lesbian to dance with an IAGSDC club. Membership is open to all square dancers. All IAGSDC clubs dance the Callerlab specified levels of MWSD.





**Frequent Dancers Dance Free**

*Hotlanta Squares hosts dances throughout the year featuring fantastic nationally known guest callers. A good turnout for these dances enhances our reputation as one of the largest and most active square dance clubs in the state of Georgia, which in turn makes it easier to draw those top callers to our events. In appreciation of those members who attend all of the Hotlanta Squares' dances in the calendar year, free admission is*

The Association is a non-profit organization of square dance clubs whose purposes are: (1) To promote Modern Western Square Dancing. (2) To enhance the image of the LGBTQ\* people, especially in the international square dance community. (3) To provide an opportunity for the social and dancing exchange of ideas among the member clubs. (4) To support and encourage the growth of its membership.

This gives you an idea of how we have evolved over the last 30 plus years. The IAGSDC holds its annual meeting each year during convention. Each membership club has a delegate represented at this meeting. The business of the organization is conducted during this 3 hour meeting. Delegates get to cast their vote on any issues that may arise during that meeting. Delegates also vote on future convention sites.

The IAGSDC is a 501(c)(7) registered non-profit. As such, it can accept donations, although those donations are not tax-deductible. To make a donation to the IAGSDC directly, contact the Treasurer through the contact page at [www.iagsdc.org](http://www.iagsdc.org).

There is a long tradition within the IAGSDC of clubs hosting

'Banner Dances". These are locally organized events, usually for just one night. Sometimes a section of a fly-in is advertised as a banner dance. The club charges an entry fee for the dance, normally called by a guest caller. The fees collected, less expenses, are divided 50%-50% between the club and a donation to the IAGSDC. Banner dances provide a useful addition to the donations and membership fees that keep the IAGSDC and your own club running.

In closing, I encourage all of you to visit the IAGSDC website at [www.iagsdc.org](http://www.iagsdc.org). Our site has lots of information from upcoming events, to convention information, history of the IAGSDC, etc. I also hope each of you would create a profile within the site.

It's free and it's easy to

Yellow Rocks,  
Kent Tolleson



IAGSDC Secretary  
Hotlanta Squares Member



**So... if you've made it to our all our dances through the Hanger Dance be sure to attend the Swing Into Summer Dance on June 20th to stay qualified to dance for free in ... December !!**





*Vacationing in Alaska*

**Kent Tolleason**  
*An original Hotlanta Square, original guy and ultimate volunteer.*

*Kent started his square dancing life back in August 2001. At first, very reluctant to attend because of what he remembered from Jr. High School square dancing he decided to give it a try. After his first lesson he was hooked. He couldn't believe the new and updated music that was used in modern western square dancing. In the beginning it*

*was a little rough with very few dancers and no angels to help, and a very new square dance caller....well, you get the picture (many broken down squares). It took time for all of us to get the hang of it and the caller too. It made for some wonderful memories. In wanting to give back Kent joined the board as Vice-President in '03-'04, then President in '04-'05, and President Emeritus in '05-'06. Kent has also served as the Chairperson for the annual PDP fly-in for PDP 7 in 2008 and PDP 12 in 2014. Kent currently serves as the Secretary (Jan. '12-present) on the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC) board. Kent also served as Co-*

*Chair of the annual IAGSDC convention held in Atlanta (2011). So, in nearly 14 years of square dancing Kent has enjoyed the ride and hopes it continues for many years to come.*

*Kent says to you, "If you love square dancing and want to give back to your fellow dancers please consider running for an office or Chair of our annual fly-in. Yes, it's a lot of work but is also rewarding seeing everyone having a good time during classes/dances and at our annual fly-in. "*

*Thank you Kent !!*

## Promenade Down Peachtree 14 (PDP)

Hotlanta Squares Promenade Down Peachtree 2016 is being held over the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday weekend, January 15-17, 2016.



Gary Monday  
Seattle, Washington

We have 3 fantastic guest callers lined up who will keep you moving and laughing.

Register now to take advantage of the current low rate of \$100, good through August 31st.



Justin Russell  
Memphis, Tennessee



Chris Phillips  
Fort Lauderdale,



**IN MEMORY OF A BEAUTIFUL SOUL AND ONE OF OUR OWN.**

**CECI MITCHELL**

**NOVEMBER 10, 1951 — APRIL 25, 2015**



link to Cecilia Florence Mitchell 's obituary

<http://sissonfuneralhome.com/obituary.aspx?MemberId=146015>