

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Volume 1 * Issue 1

Summer 2003

OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS®

A Lesbian and Gay Organization

Newsletter Test Pilot

LAGSDC® to Test Pilot a New Information Source

In an effort to increase communication to and connectedness of individual IAGSDC® club members, the IAGSDC® Officers are testing the viability of an IAGSDC® Newsletter. It is our hope that through this publication, we will increase the knowledge base of our members. We envision this periodical as a source of calendar items, activity and program reports, and topical issues geared at information that is pertinent to the individual. If this pilot newsletter is received favorably, it will be published on a quarterly or semi annual basis and will be mailed directly to each club member. Content for future editions will be solicited from any and all IAGSDC® members. Our ultimate goal for this project is to strengthen and expand the IAGSDC® organization through empowering its membership with information and support. We welcome your comments and feedback and will utilize this information to improve future endeavors.

ENJOY THIS ISSUE!

The 2002/03 IAGSDC® Board

Chairperson – Scott Parker
Vice-Chairperson – Scott Philips
Secretary – Michael Deets
Treasurer – Brian Smith

For complete details and other information on the IAGSDC®, please check the web site at:

<http://www.iagsdc.org/>

Contact Information

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San Diego CA 92138-7507
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The Bradley Bell

Since the Inaugural Edition in 1986, the Bradley Bell has been published every year and the spirit of camaraderie is what the Bradley Bell is all about. It is a personal telephone directory for friends (both old and new) to use to keep in touch. You don't have to be a square dancer in order to list. You go out and make the friends; we will keep your address book for you. If you meet someone new at an event and want to exchange addresses, simply state that you are in the Bradley Bell and continue with your business. We have many subscribers who can attest to the ability of the Bradley Bell to expedite trysts and romances.

The Andy Shore/Callerlab Challenge

At the IAGSDC® board meeting in Toronto (July 2002) Andy Shore announced a Challenge Match to raise



funds for both the CALLERLAB Foundation for the Preservation and

Promotion of Square Dancing and for the IAGSDC®. As an Affiliate Member of the IAGSDC®, The Bradley Bell would like to support this challenge and has pledged the following:

For each regular subscription to the **2003 printed edition** of the Bradley Bell prior to **July 1, 2003**, the Bradley Bell will send \$1.00 of the \$7.00 regular subscription price to the Andy Shore/Callerlab Challenge. Our goal is \$500 to the challenge.

Thank you for your continued support!

Bradley Bell

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Visit our website to download the subscription form and subscribe today

Regular Subscription \$7.00 USD
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Listing Only \$2.00 USD
Extra Directories \$5.00 each USD

**Anticipated publication date
is August 2003**

The Memorial Panels

IN 1994 Freeman Stamper had a vision about the Memorial Panels. The first panel appeared at Stars and Stripes Forever in Washington D.C.

In the following two years two more panels were created and display frames were constructed. The panels were painted by Gene Boemer, an artist friend

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of Freeman Stamper's, from Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The frames were designed and constructed by George Fox of Capital City Squares in Sacramento California.

In 2001 Brian Smith and John McKinstry of Vancouver Canada created a database of every name on all three panels. A book is once again being placed next to the display at convention, in the hopes that when people place badges of those that have left us they will also add that name to the book. This will facilitate keeping the database up to date. This database also gives us something to fall back upon in the unlikely event that anything should ever happen to the panels.

The Panels have come to represent a powerful and moving reminder of how many people we have lost over the years. Every year when badges are added to the panel there is a certain catharsis that takes place during the ritual of placing a badge on the memorial panels. Also for just being able to look at the panels on display provides each and every one of us an opportunity to grieve and remember.

Thank you Freeman for giving us a way to remember.

The Petersen Fund

WHAT IS THE PETERSEN FUND?

In 1995 Denver's Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus lost one of their valued members – Joe Petersen. Thanks to Joe's actions, his love of gay square dancing is continuing. Joe made a generous bequest in his will to perpetuate and promote gay square dancing. The monies Joe bequeathed were placed in the Rainbow Trust. The earnings from the Trust are made available to the Petersen Fund, which is administered by the Petersen Committee. The Petersen Committee is composed of the Chair, the Administrator of the Trust, and 3 members elected by the IAGSDC® Executive Board (the Petersen Committee acts on club requests for funds and awards grants. The income from the Rainbow Trust is usually between \$12,000 – \$13,000 each year, from which Petersen grants are made.



PETERSEN GRANTS – WHAT AND HOW

The purpose of the Petersen Fund, as per Joe's wishes, is to –

- Promote club growth and development through education, recruitment, and promotion.
- Assist in the establishment of new clubs.
- Promotion and advancement of Gay and Lesbian square dancing and by doing so, advancing the whole activity of square dancing.
- Informing non-dancers of the activity and its benefits.

Examples of past funding projects –

In the years the Petersen Fund has been operating, here are samples of projects which have been funded. It is usual for the Committee to fully fund some parts of a request and only partially fund others.

- Recruiting: booth rental at pride festivals and street fairs; pride parade fees; advertising; printing of flyers and brochures; postage for mailings to prospective class members; caller fees and/or hall rental for live demos and recruiting dances.
- Starting new clubs: fund specific items needed in trying to establish a new club; reimburse an individual who uses personal funds to successfully start a new club (must be documented with receipts).
- Help struggling clubs get on sound footing: temporary help with caller expenses while a club works toward financial independence (usually only a one-year or less grant).

Examples or requests not funded –

- Expenses of regular club activities, which should be part of their operating budget.
- Purchase of sound systems.
- As there is a limit to available Petersen Funds, clubs in solid financial positions have had requests either denied or only partially funded.

How will your club's application be most successful – This can be best answered in two words: **BE SPECIFIC!**

The Committee can better evaluate your application if you are detailed. Requests that are too general and broad can maybe give the

impression of a poorly thought out application.

- Avoid: "Advertising (et.al) (this includes postage)". Let us know what ads, how many, and the estimated cost per ad. Tell us how many mailings you propose and the estimated cost for each.
- Avoid: "Pride Festival Activities". Be specific as to booth rental, parade fees, printing flyers, etc.
- Avoid: "Expenses starting a new club": Detail the expenses. If you are requesting reimbursement for money already spent, be prepared to document it with receipts
- On the applications, fill in the club's financial position as completely as possible. If your club is currently struggling and wants help, indicate what you are trying to do to get back on solid footing.
- One of the main guiding factors of committee deliberations is "How many new dancers will the expenditure of these funds bring to the club
- Keep your request reasonable, along with good supporting information, and the committee is more apt to act favorably on your application.

WHERE TO FIND APPLICATION FORMS FOR PETERSEN GRANTS –

- Each IAGSDC® club was mailed a letter, including an application, on May 1, 2003
- Go to the web site: www.iagsdc.org/petersen_main.html
- Write or email Scott Phillips for forms: sphilips@teleport.com

If you think your club could benefit from a Petersen grant, ask your club officers to look for that May 1, 2003, mailing mentioned above. Remind them that the deadline for mailing applications is **June 15, 2003**.

ANCHORS AWEIGH WITH A HALF SASHAY

20th Annual IAGSDC® Convention
July 3-6, 2003

Ahoy! July is rapidly approaching and the 20th annual convention of the IAGSDC® is about to begin in San Diego. "Anchors Aweigh With a Half Sashay" will set sail under fair skies at the elegant Sheraton Hotel and Marina just a few hundred feet from the edge

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of San Diego Bay July 3-6, 2003. This prime location (close to the airport, Hillcrest and downtown) offers a fantastic vantage point for viewing harbor traffic (including returning Navy ships, sailors and marines) and the Friday night fireworks display.



The mild climate and relaxed, laid-back ambiance of San Diego camouflage what is going to be a lively, exciting, dynamic, memorable and fun occasion.

The extensive dancing program will begin Thursday evening with the trail-in dance, featuring the ever-popular Mike Desisto. Nineteen additional staff callers will continue the Mainstream through C3A dancing until Sunday evening at 2 bells (9 PM).

In addition to square dancing, the weekend will include the fun badge tour, business meetings, club photographs and other traditional events. You may want to take a break from dancing and stroll along the Harbor and take in the views of downtown and the Naval Air Station (less than a mile away across the harbor). A great option for late night relaxing and socializing will be at the Captain's Table Cabaret with live entertainment.

~ Ben Fabian

For further details, including the newsletters and updates, please visit the web site:
www.iagsdc.org/finestcity

The Medallion Project

In creating the Medallion Project, Freeman Stamper achieved the following goals:

- ~ giving the individual dancer a simple, attainable goal that is judged by nothing other than participation
- ~ giving the individual dancer control over attaining the goal so that alternatives can be woven into the process of achievement
- ~ providing a goal that is realistic, but requires extraordinary effort
- ~ providing a reward that is tangible and

visually satisfying

~ providing a spirit of great joy and a feeling of personal human worth in having achieved the goal

~ creating a feeling of community and equality among those who have reached and are seeking to reach the same goal

~ extending the convention attendance life of the dancer in order to provide significant convention attendees so that newer dancers feel the excitement of the mass

It does not take ten years to earn a medallion. It can be earned in nine years because they are counted from the beginning of the year, not the end (as is true when counting anniversaries). Additionally, since the conventions do not have to be consecutive, some dancers take longer than 10 years to earn a medallion. It is important to remember that conventions are being counted, not years.

Once again this year at the annual convention in San Diego another special group of people will be honored with a ten year medallion. In addition, as the IAGSDC® celebrates it's 20th Convention, a very special group of people will be attending their 20th Convention.

IAGSDC® Event Calender

August

8-10

[Follow Your Neighbor VIII-- Hawaiian Luau](#), Cadillac Squares, Detroit, MI. Callers: H.Richman. Info: Jay Steffka (313) 837-7966. E-mail: cadsquares@aol.com

29-31

[Great Chicago Crossfire XIV](#), Chi Town Squares, Chicago, IL. Callers: S.Bryant, J.Oldfield, B.Rubright. Info: Chuck Pease (708) 757-3751. E-mail: cipease@ciprinting.com

29-31

[Shoot the Star in San Francisco, Foggy City Dancers' 20th Anniversary](#), Foggy City Dancers, San Francisco, CA. Callers: P.Carnathan, M.Kellogg, A.Shore.

Info: Santo Aloisi (650) 270-6461. E-mail: fcdflyin2003@att.net.

September

*September is International
Gay Square Dance Month*

5-7

[Peel Off in the Redwoods \(for men\)](#), Wildwood Retreat, Guerneville, CA, on the Russian River. Callers: TBA. Info: Gary Dougan (510) 531-1459. E-mail: gld@pacbell.net.

18-21

[Colorado Mountain Mix](#), Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus, Denver, CO. Callers: T.Fellegly, B.Miller, A.Uebelacker. Info: Brett Miller (720) 344-1596. E-mail: bmiller_denver@yahoo.com.

19-21

[Moon Over Malibu \(for men\)](#), Malibu, CA. Callers: V.Ceder. Info: John Herriot (877) 429-6368. E-mail: wehojohn@aol.com.

26-28

[Harvest Ball](#), Ottawa-Hull Date Squares, Ottawa, ONT. Callers: G.Ito, K.van Vliet. Info: Larry White (613) 224-7787. E-mail: datesquares@gayottawa.com.

October

3-5

[A little more Magic, 14th Gay A&C Weekend](#), Squares Across the Border, Vancouver, BC Canada. Callers: R.Brendzy, V.Ceder, B.Clasper, T.Fellegly, A.Uebelacker. Info: Brian Smith (604) 433-7789. E-mail: briansmith@telus.net

10-12

[Load the Boat XIII](#), Cleveland City Country Dancers, Cleveland, OH. Callers: B. Eycler, A. Shore. Info: Mary (330) 569-7880. E-mail: dancer@config.com

10-12

[Zoom to the Beach](#), Shoreline Squares, Long Beach, CA. Callers: TBA. Info: Jerry Mersky (562) 494-8896. E-mail: jwmersky@jwmersky.com

24-26

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Peel the Pumpkin, Times Squares, New York, NY. Callers: S. Bryant, J. Marshall, N. Martellacci. Info: Nick Martellacci (718) 624-5665. E-mail: TimesSquaresSEC@aol.com

Convention Advisory Committee

The Convention Advisory Committee was set up more than 10 years ago as a means of helping clubs and individuals who wish to bid for Conventions.

In 2001 a new committee was struck with the intention of taking the valuable work that had already been done and making it more user accessible. Our objective was to make the committee more current. To this end, the current committee includes representatives from the most recent three convention planning committees. This would, we hope, give those seeking information the opportunity to get the latest available.

Next we wanted to provide a web site that was easily accessible where information could be stored and retrieved by anyone interested. This would (in the long run) resolve the issue of who to ask about what and reduce waiting time. There was also talk about producing a handbook and that is still being worked on. There is so much information available and everyone is extremely willing to share this information. Once the questions are asked the information is produced and then it is put on the web site.

The Committee does not have all the answers or all the questions and we rely on the convention planners, both past present and future, to provide this information. We are just facilitators of the data.

This has been a largely collaborative effort bringing together many people who despite jobs and lives have managed to keep this effort going. Ett McAtee has been and continues to be a driving force behind this committee. Brian Smith has put together a great and very user friendly web site.

We all hope that this effort will pay off by making conventions easier to put together and bid on and then in the final analysis to bring the event together. As many people have remarked over the years, there is no need to reinvent the wheel...it has all been done before and hopefully this Committee has been able to gather much of that knowledge and make it available to those who want it.

~ John McKinstry

What the Future Holds

2004

Remake the Heat Wave
21st Annual IAGSDC® Convention.
July, 1-5, 2004
Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa
Phoenix, AZ.



2005

Star Thru the Silicon Galaxy
22ND Annual IAGSDC® Convention
July 1-4, 2005
Santa Clara Marriott
in the heart of Silicon Valley, California

2006

Anaheim, CA is the chosen site. Further convention details will be made available when known.

Why go to an A&C Weekend?

So.....you're a new A2 or C1 dancer. You had a great time learning all those new moves. What's next? I suggest that your dancing skills would benefit greatly from your attending this year's A&C weekend, being held in Vancouver this October.

I've attended A&C weekends for a few years. My first was the weekend the El Camino Reelers hosted ("Shakedown Along the Fault") in Redwood City in

1997. I was scared to death at first...but I ended up having a terrific time!

The annual IAGSDC® convention is still one of the best places to build and "lock in" your skills at a new dance level. HOWEVER ... once you start dancing Advanced (or Challenge), there are good reasons to ALSO go to the annual gay & lesbian A&C fly-ins.

- At Convention, you're dancing with peers; many other people have recently graduated at the level you're dancing, or are generally comfortable at the level in the hall. It's fun, but it can be frustrating at times.

- At the A&C fly-in, the A2 halls are more likely to contain a lot of higher-level dancers. That means stronger squares with other dancers who will be very supportive of your attempts to master the level.

I've had very positive experiences at the A&C fly-ins, and have learned a lot of the "finer points" of A&C dancing there. It's also a smaller crowd, which makes the experience of dancing at a "freshly-learned" level a lot less scary.

Vancouver BC is an especially good place for a first A&C fly-in for new A2/C1 dancers. The local club ("Squares Across The Border") is exceptionally friendly. The exchange rate is low enough (in our favor) that a weekend in Vancouver is a terrific bargain for U.S. visitors. And Vancouver is not only beautiful, but is also very clean and safe. Oh! And you already know what it's like to dance to Anne, so at least one of the callers will be familiar to you. ☺

If you haven't been to Vancouver before, and/or maybe aren't sure about visiting Canada for the first time ... have a look at an article I wrote for SquareUp! Magazine a few years ago. There's a copy on the ECR website:

<http://www.reelers.org/amcan.pdf>

The article's due for a refresh (it was last updated just before the Vancouver IAGSDC® Convention), but most of it is still accurate. :)

I hope to see everyone from the A2 & C1 classes in Vancouver this October!

~ Allan Hurst

Feedback

Comments, ideas, letters to the editor, articles for future issues? We welcome your input.

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