

# THE TALLY-HO:

ALL OUR NEWS THAT'S FABULOUS ENOUGH TO PRINT

## Ready to Swing in St. Louis? Our 2015 Convention is Almost Here!

Our Convention is springing ahead this year, all the way up to Memorial Day (that's the one in May, not the one in September). That's right, you only have to count down the minutes for 4 more months until our annual beloved family-reunion celebration kicks off once again.

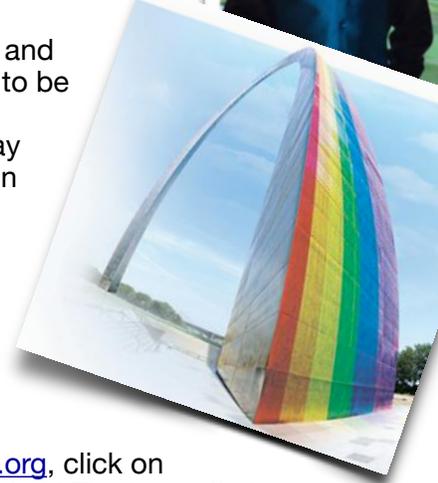
St. Louis Convention Chairperson Aaron Wells is excited about welcoming all y'all to Swing Me in St. Louis from **May 22 to 25**. If you are the procrastinating type (don't worry, we won't tell anyone), then it's time to get those registrations in and sign up for the Fun Badge and all of the other tours before they sell out and the trolleys roll away without you.

Aaron swears the host hotel is uber-fabulous, the callers are going to be THE best ever (though if your favorite caller was not included, don't fret, that was just an oversight that

you can take up with the Toronto Convention Committee), and this is going to be the best Memorial-Day Convention in at least the last 5 years, promise!

If you haven't yet registered, head to [www.iagsdc.org](http://www.iagsdc.org), click on Events, and do it! The latest Swing Me in St. Louis newsletter is also available to read online anytime at <http://swingmeinstlouis.com/news.php>.

**ALERT:** Registration Rate increases from \$240 to \$265 on April 1st, so sign up quickly!



(Above) Two understated Squeeze the Hive attendees.

## Puddletown Represents at Washington State Capitol

On November 11, Seattle's Puddletown Squares was invited to dance at the 125th Anniversary of Washington Statehood celebration at the State Capitol building. Square dancing is the official dance of the state of Washington (who knew, right?), and Puddletown was one of only two square dance clubs invited to dance at the celebration. With the Washington State Governor present at the event and Mike DiSisto calling for the group,

Puddletown Squares made us all proud.



## Caller Profile: **Chris Phillips**

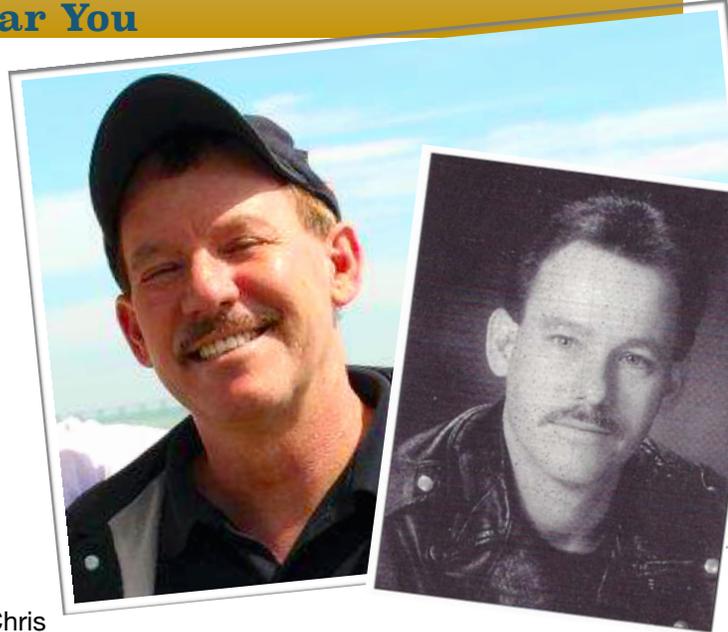
### The IAGSDC Pioneer Has Revived the South Florida Mustangs and Is Back Calling at a Dance Near You

The IAGSDC is teeming with brilliant, exciting callers, some of whom have become famous enough that we can just refer to them *Cher-style* by their first names — (hello, Anne and Sandra!) Here we are beginning a series of caller profiles that highlight callers whom everyone across IAGSDC-land may not yet know.

First up is Chris Phillips, who not only has revived the South Florida Mustangs, but who also played an instrumental role in the founding of the IAGSDC itself. In late-1970s Miami, Chris co-founded the first gay square dance group, whose members later moved to Denver and other cities to found other clubs. The first LGBT square dance groups (from Miami, Denver and San Francisco) originally had no governing organization of their own. For several years the disparate groups only got together to dance at the annual Reno Gay Rodeo each year. In 1982 they finally met to form the IAGSDC at Chris' gay bar, The Crossfire, fittingly named after a square dance call.

Though Chris originally became a square dance caller out of necessity after being pushed to do so by club members who were tired of dancing to records, Chris soon discovered a real love of calling. Before long he learned the art of "taking the floor as far as they could go" and making them love it. Chris was one of the first truly national gay square dance callers, and he played a pivotal role in proliferating gay square dancing.

Chris took several years' hiatus from calling, but luckily for us, the eternally youthful Mr. Phillips is back. He has helped revive the South Florida Mustangs from a period of inactivity, and he is back on the caller's circuit once again as well.



"Chris has become one of my favorite callers," says Wayne Johnson of Hotlanta Squares. "He is superb at sight-calling, he is a master at playfully challenging the floor but not overwhelming dancers, and he's just a great person."

Chris today (*above left*) and in his by-gone Freddy Mercury phase (*right*).

In addition to calling all over South Florida, Chris is back calling at more gay square dances, and many new IAGSDC members are having the pleasure of dancing to Chris once again. Over the past few months alone, Chris has called at both the New York and Atlanta fly-ins, and in a few weeks, he will be calling at St. Petersburg's Flip the Flamingo fly-in over Presidents Day weekend. Check him out soon!

## Dallas is Now in the House!

### Pegasus Squares Becomes Newest IAGSDC Club

At last year's Convention, the Pegasus Squares of Dallas, Texas were admitted as a full Member Club to the IAGSDC. Pegasus Squares has 27 members, and it is being led by President Alan Josephson, Vice President Rob Miller, and the club caller Seth Feinberg. The club is currently doing weekly beginner lessons and periodic dances. Please welcome Pegasus Squares, and be sure to stop by and say "Howdy" to them the next time you find yourself in Dallas. [pegasussquares.com](http://pegasussquares.com)



## UPCOMING CONVENTION DATES

SWING ME IN ST. LOUIS  
St. Louis, MO  
May 22-25, 2015  
[swingmeinstlouis.com](http://swingmeinstlouis.com)

MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP  
Toronto, Ontario  
July 1-4, 2016  
[toronto2016.com](http://toronto2016.com)

Full IAGSDC Event Calendar at:  
[iagsdc.org/event/page/eventindex.php](http://iagsdc.org/event/page/eventindex.php)

# IAGDSC VIRTUAL CLUB TOUR, STOP 1: What's Been Happening at....

## HOTLANTA SQUARES

## A VERY LUCKY 13th PARADE DOWN PEACHTREE

13 definitely turned out to be a lucky number for Hotlanta Squares as it hosted its 13th Parade Down Peachtree fly-in over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. Featured amazing callers Michael Kellogg, Hunter Keller and Chris Phillips called to more than 110 full-weekend registrants plus many more a la carte attendees. Fun fact: the luckiest of them all turned out to be Joe "Spot" Chodash, who won pretty much every weekend raffle.



# IAGDSC VIRTUAL CLUB TOUR, STOP 2: What's Been Happening at....

## CHI-TOWN SQUARES

## CROSSFIRE THROWS A WEDDING

Chi-Town celebrated the same-sex marriage wave with its rollicking 2014 "Step & Slide Down the Aisle" wedding-themed fly-in this past fall. 83 weekend-long registrants celebrated the right to "Say 'I Do'" while they danced to callers Sandra Bryant, Mike Kellogg and other Chi-Town club callers. Later in the fall, Chi-Town hosted its annual Mainstream Blast weekend, which very much lived up to its name.



# IAGSDC VIRTUAL CLUB TOUR, STOP 3: What's Been Happening at....

## OUR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CLUBS



## A THOUGHT-PROVOKING MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT & DANCE



**Reaching That Elusive Younger Demographic**

A featured speaker at the NorCal summit explained that we need to reach our target demographic in stages. First, start with dancers within 10 years of your current age range. Once you have that "generation" of new dancers established, use them to reach out to dancers who are within 10 years of THEIR ages, and so on, until eventually you'll reach down to the younger dancers everyone wants to recruit into our clubs.

On January 11, 2015, the IAGSDC clubs of Northern California held "Swing and Circle the Wagons," a membership summit to discuss potential methods for sustaining and growing local LGBT square dance clubs. Since NorCal is unique in having so many clubs in a compact geographic area, 37 attendees represented Western Star Dancers, Foggy City Squares, El Camino Reelers, Capital City Squares, Prime 8's, Redwood Rainbows, Oaktown 8's, Diablo Dancers, and Midnight Squares at the summit.

After a presentation on Leadership, the duties of club boards today, and what is needed to keep clubs moving forward, a marketing workshop followed that included extensive discussions about attracting target demographics to LGBT square dance clubs



(see inset).

The summit was followed by a dance with caller Hunter Keller, and both were organized/funded by Bay Pearls, the non-profit established to host the 2013 San Francisco Convention.



## HEADS UP!!

### Want to Earn Special Praise & Priority Seating for Your Club at Convention? Throw an IAGSDC Banner Dance!

Any club that throws an IAGSDC Banner Dance between now and May 1 will get the following: (1) A Priority, Reserved Table at either the Convention brunch or banquet; and (2) special verbal recognition in front of the entire Convention assembly. It's easy to throw a Banner dance: just request the IAGSDC Banner via the IAGSDC website and donate at least \$75 from your dance entries or your raffle to the IAGSDC. For more info, contact [liaison@iagsdc.org](mailto:liaison@iagsdc.org).

### UPDATE YOUR IAGSDC PROFILE!

Facebook isn't the only place where you have an online profile. As an IAGSDC member, you have one on the IAGSDC website too. There you can tell others which fly-ins and conventions you're attending, and you can make it easier to receive info, updates and more. We'll be reaching out to delegates and others soon, so **club delegates and officers, please update the contact information on your profiles ASAP.** And don't be greedy, you only need one. Some people have created multiple profiles over time, which makes it harder to find the "real you." Please go to [www.iagsdc.org](http://www.iagsdc.org) and update your primary profile soon.

# IAGSDC VIRTUAL CLUB TOUR, STOP 4: What's Been Happening at....

## TIMES SQUARES

## MASSIVE PEEL THE PUMPKIN THRILLS



New York's Time Squares threw a fly-in extravaganza this fall that spanned four days, boasted more than a dozen callers and attracted over 200 full-weekend registrants. Spearheaded by the tireless, always welcoming Emad Heikel (whose unending parade of ball gowns never ceases to impress), Peel the Pumpkin 2014 had both scale and heart that thrilled the attending masses.



**JOIN THE VIRTUAL TOUR:  
WANT YOUR CLUB TO BE A  
FEATURED STOP ON THE  
IAGSDC VIRTUAL TOUR?**  
All you have to do is send us a fairly short write-up about one of your club's activities, along with accompanying photos, and *voila!*, you'll be one of the next featured destinations. If you have questions, or to submit content for either future Virtual Club Tour articles or Club Quickies (short notices), contact [liaison@iagsdc.org](mailto:liaison@iagsdc.org).

*CLUB QUICKIES: Short Notices from Member Clubs.*

**SUNCOAST SQUARES:** "If you Crossfired in Chicago, Peeled the Pumpkin in New York or Promenaded Down Peachtree in Atlanta, please consider 'Flipping the Flamingo' in warm, inviting St Petersburg, Florida. This event will take place over Presidents Day Weekend – February 13 thru February 16, 2015. Five (5) meals are included with Full Registration, and on Monday, we dance outside at beautiful Fort DeSoto Park right by the water. Please see [www.suncoastsquares.com](http://www.suncoastsquares.com) for more information." - Joe Ursitti, President

**TINSELTOWN SQUARES:** "It would be great if you could put in our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TinseltownSquares>... It has [our] most up to date class information and event info."- Kris Yang, President

**CAPITAL CITY SQUARES:** "[On November 15 we held] our 33rd Anniversary Square Dance. We are the 2nd oldest Gay Square Dance club in the US. We recently changed our webpage from the IAGSDC-sponsored web page to a meetup page (<http://www.meetup.com/CapCitySquares/>)." - Bob Granger, President



## A New Resource for All IAGSDC Clubs' Use: THE IAGSDC PHOTO-BANK

We are happy to provide you with a new IAGSDC photo repository for clubs' official use. You can access and download hundreds of photos plus unique items like same-sex dancer silhouettes at:

<http://bradbruner.smugmug.com/share/Photobanks>

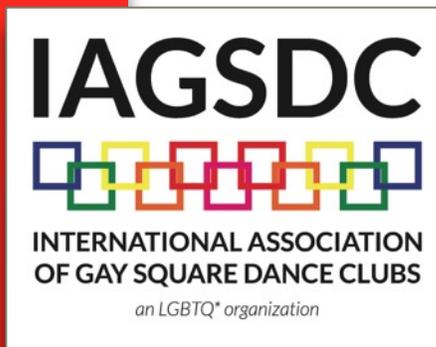
(Hint: Bookmark the link so you can find it again later.)

We will continue to add photos to the photo-bank over time. Please send us your additional photos to add to the galleries too (please send to [liaison@iagsdc.org](mailto:liaison@iagsdc.org)). Later this year we hope to launch a new section of dance videos as well.



### 2014-15 IAGSDC BOARD OFFICERS

Phil Davis, **Chair**  
 Aaron Wells, **Vice-Chair**  
 Kent Tolleson, **Secretary**  
 Michael Pemberton, **Treasurer**  
 Brad Bruner, **Club Liaison**  
 Bob Hazen, **Past Chair**



Our Official Mailing Address:

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The IAGSDC Newsletter is available online at:  
[iagsdc.org/resources/page/newsletter.php](http://iagsdc.org/resources/page/newsletter.php)



For more information, call or fax All Join Hands Foundation at 602-674-3239, send email to [info@alljoinhands.org](mailto:info@alljoinhands.org), or visit the website at [www.alljoinhands.org](http://www.alljoinhands.org)

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 Phoenix, AZ 85068

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