



Introduction to the Club

Welcome to The Whirl and Twirl Square and Round Dance Club of Orlando, Florida! We are one of the oldest clubs in the Central Florida area and on June 1, 2007 we celebrated our 45th anniversary. That represents a "whole lot" of dancing! We use the "clubhouse" on a full time basis with dances at the Mainstream level (Tenderfoot) on Wednesday evenings and at the Plus level (Bigfoot) on Friday evenings. On other evenings the facility is used for the Basic program (Sugarfoot), the Plus workshop and a round dance and class. Round dancing is also offered in conjunction with the Friday evening Plus dance.

In November of 1994 the club moved into their own building, The Whirl & Twirl Square & Round Dance Center. This building was purchased and remodeled by the club members in order to house The Whirl and Twirl Square and Round Dance Club.

Danny Robinson was the club caller and had been with the club since December 1963 until his death in February of 2006. Danny "called" the square dances and conducted a year round instructional program; basics through Plus, which is open to club members and area dancers. On July 1, 2006 Paul Place took over as club caller. We are looking forward to many more years with Paul on the stage. Jan & Pete Shankle are the club "Cuer". They cue the round dances on Friday evenings.



Basic Program

Your first encounter with the club may be through the Basic program, unless you are joining the club after taking your initial square dance instructions elsewhere. The basic program currently consists of 15 week wherein the Basic figures are learned. At Whirl and Twirl the dancers in the basic program are known as Sugarfoot dancers. The club selects a couple to act as class coordinators; they keep records, maintain student lists and collect all funds. These class coordinators are the "oil" that helps the program run smoothly and may be the first Whirl and Twirl dancers you are involved with. Another couple may be selected to serve as host and hostess to help with refreshments during the program.

Other club members, who have previously graduated and are at various levels of square dancing, volunteer to assist in the program as "Helping Hands". These couples generally fill in to complete the squares, help the new dancers and assist where necessary. If a helping hand attends at least 12 weeks of the program he becomes eligible for a "Square Angel" award, which the club caller will bestow at the graduation of the beginner dancers. If a helping hand goes through the program a second time, he becomes eligible for a "Super Anglel" award. Volunteering as a helping hand is a good way to reinforce one's command of the basic figures.

The Club Caller may make arrangements for our Basic Class to attend another Caller's classes during the later part of this initial instruction. During this Basic class the dancers will be eligible to attend the "Class Level" dances presented each year by the Central Florida Callers Association. These dances are held periodically at various facilities in this area as the students progress through the program. Information on these dances will be available from the club caller and the Class Coordinators.



The Mainstream Program

The next level of square dancing is "Mainstream" and consists of 17 additional calls. This list is not taught in a formal program, but instead is taught in a workshop at 7:00 pm prior to each Wednesday night Tenderfoot dance. The Mainstream list is essentially repeated each time that a new basic class comes into the Wednesday program. Whirl and Twirl is one of the very few clubs offering dancing at the Mainstream level in the Central Florida area. Most area clubs offer alternating Mainstream and Plus tips if they offer Mainstream dancing at all. Many area clubs are listed as Plus clubs and dance only at that higher level.

As the Helping Hands Program helps to reinforce the basic dance skills, additional time spent in the mainstream Program has a direct beneficial effect on a dancer's ability. Dances called at the Mainstream level will include all of the basic, as well as, all of the mainstream calls. A combination of the Basic and the Mainstream calls constitutes a Mainstream Dance.

The Plus Level Program

The Plus Level Program consists of 17 additional calls and is currently taught by the club caller in a 15-week workshop format. The workshop format used is the same as that used in the Basic Program, a class coordinator and "Back-up Artists" are provided by those members already dancing at the Plus level. Upon completion of the Plus workshop and dancing on Friday nights for four to six weeks, the new plus dancers are put through a ritual initiation called a "kick-up" wherein they receive the gold "Bigfoot" to attach to their club name badge. They are forever after called Whirl and Twirl Bigfoot dancers and are known in the area clubs to be accomplished Plus level dancers.



Special Activities

In addition to the regular Wednesday and Friday night dances the club holds a number of special activities. Some of these may be held in lieu of regular dances or on a different night. While most of these activities are traditional, some are organized as a one-time special event. Listed below are some of these activities:

January:	General Meeting, Western Nite and appointment of the nomination committee
March:	TAW appreciation dinner and dance
April:	Annual picnic
May:	General meeting, Luau and election of officers
June:	Anniversary dance and installation of officers
September:	General meeting and Italian dinner dance
November:	Thanksgiving dinner and dance
December:	New Year's Eve dance

Many of our combined Tenderfoot / Bigfoot dances are "themed" to coincide with the current significant date or holiday. Dancers usually dress in special attire in keeping with the occasion.



Visiting Area Clubs

Square Dancing is good healthy exercise and promotes good fun and fellowship. Visiting other clubs can add to your enjoyment and improve your dancing skills. You will find that other clubs will welcome you, but you should visit clubs who dances at your level. It would be foolish to visit where you can't dance, so check out the level before you make plans to dance. Put on your dancin' duds and that big smile on your face and join in the fun of square dancing with new friends and old alike.

Whirl and Twirl - Blue Bandits

One of the nicest methods used to promote visiting between clubs is the "Banner Raid / Banner Retrieval" program. At Whirl and Twirl this group, open to all club members, is known as the Blue Bandits. There are established guidelines for raiding or retrieving from another club and our club has both a "Bigfoot" and a "Tenderfoot" Bandit Leader couple. In order to increase participation there is a point system established. Members are designated Blue Bandits upon earning 50 points with additional awards earned at 100, 200, 300 and 400 points. The Bandit Leaders are in charge of the Bandit activity from making plans to assigning points.

Century Club

A fun way to participate in visitation other area clubs or to enjoy dancing around the country is to obtain a "Century Book". This book has space for 100 callers' signatures. When you have danced to 100 callers you can send in this book and receive a "Century Bar" to attach to you club name badge. The books are offered for sale at all Square Dance Shops.



Conventions

Every year on the last full weekend in May the Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention is held. Most years this convention is held at the convention center in Lakeland, Florida. The convention begins with the dance on Friday evening and goes through the weekend, ending on Sunday night. Saturday night at the convention is Club night when everyone wears club colors and takes part in the Grand March.

There is a National Square and Round Dance Convention each year in a different city in the United States. States place bids to be chosen to host this convention and some states have hosted as many as 32,000 dancers at this one event. The National always starts on the fourth Thursday of June and runs through Saturday. On Wednesday night before the convention opens there are many Trails End dances and many consider this the best night at the National.

The highlight for most dancers, aside from dancing, is the shopping at the conventions. You will be able to purchase most anything you may need, see all the latest fashions and pick up a lot of information.

We were fortunate as the National Square and Round Dance Convention was held here in Central Florida at the Orange County Convention Center in June of 1997. We are looking forward to hosting this great event again in the near future.

Administration of the Club

The Whirl and Twirl Square and Round Dance Club is administered by an Executive Board consisting of couples serving as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Special Events Director, Building Director, Ways & Means Director, Tenderfoot Director and Tenderfoot Vice-President. A nominating committee is named and elections are held each year at the Club Luau. The newly elected Board is sworn into office at the Anniversary Party in June of each year.

In addition to the Elected Board additional couples are selected for the many committees needed to operate a club with many members.



General Information

Whirl and Twirl is a couples club. This means that members can join as couples only. We cannot enlist a lone dancer without a partner.

You may have learned from other sources that "Square Dance" clothing is not required for dancing at the club. However, most persons find that they feel more like square dancers and more like square dancing if they are dressed for the occasion. When the subject is pettypants, every woman needs them under every skirt regardless of the swing of the skirt. This is a fact.

The Whirl and Twirl Club colors are deep royal blue, white and silver without a specific uniform. Most ladies are wearing a royal blue skirt with white and silver trim and a white blouse and silver shoes. Most men are wearing a royal blue shirt, silver tie and white pants with white shoes.

"Club Night" falls on the first Friday of the month for the "Bigfoot" dancers and on the last Wednesday of the month for the "Tenderfoot" group. Club colors are worn for Bandit activities, club night, Saturday night at the State Convention and whenever the Presidents so request.

Written by:

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