

Triangle Squares Newsletter January 2023

Triangles Calendar

**January 6 7:00 -9:00
Dance; 9:00 Club
Meeting**

**January 8 3:00 pm
Joint Meeting of
Current and Newly
Elected Officers at
Denton North Public
Library**

**January 10: 7:00-
8:30 pm New Series
of Lessons Start**

**January 17, 24, 31--
Lessons**

**January 20
Anniversary Dance
5 pm—Set-up
7:00 -9:30—Dance
9:30-10:00-Clean up**

2023

Letter from the President

A new year is approaching and time to make our New Year's resolutions. After Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, I know I'll be researching diets!

But on a serious note, our club has had a wonderful year with much to look forward to-- especially our January 20 Anniversary Dance!

This year, the Triangles have hosted three large dances for our NorTex area dancers including the 47th Anniversary Dance at Swingtime Center with ten squares, the Schmitz Dance in Krum with twelve squares and the first annual Friendship Dance, the "Turkey Shoot", with the T Square Gadabouts with eight squares. Next year this event will be held at our venue.

We have participated in four demonstration dances, Valley View 150th Anniversary in Krum, the Texas Summer Festival, Coppell Farmers Market and Dogwood Estates Retirement Center. The Triangles brought a lot of smiles during these demonstrations and that's what it is all about troops!

Our election of officers is coming up. I want to send a special thanks to Melba, Kathy, Art, Pat and Joe who have served as officers for several consecutive terms. Others have accepted nominations to fill their positions. Nominations are still open until the time of the election Jan. 6.

In closing, I would like to share in this newsletter the essay submitted to the Nortex Lifetime Achievement Awards Committee for our club's nominee, Ed Ferguson, earlier this year. Thank you, Ed, for your service!

Thank you for your time,
Dale and Ms. Carol,
The North Star of Nortex
trianglesquaresdanceclub.com



Happy Birthday to
Carol



Happy Anniversary
to Nathan & Vicki

Live Lively -



Square Dance

The next set of lessons will begin
January 10.
Who do you know that might enjoy dancing?

Anniversary Dance Details for Club Members

Hosting a dance for 100+ people is a big job but by working together, Triangle Squares have always made it a successful event. Melba Daniels is coordinating the event this year and appreciates all who have volunteered to support her by leading various aspects of the night.

Pat—decorations
Carol—kitchen
Dale & Nathan-greeters
Becky, Pam and Donna-door prizes

Melba asks that everyone be flexible and willing to step up to help that night whenever asked. In addition, everyone is asked to bring food and at least one door prize if possible.

The menu is soup, stew, crackers, bread, fruit or veggie tray, and of course, desserts. We will need a lot of food. If anyone would like to make a Mardi Gras-themed food item, that would be welcome as well. Door prizes of any kind or welcome; gift cards have been particularly popular in the past.

Club Meeting January 6 9:00 pm

Agenda Items will include the following but not be limited to them:

- Election of Officers (nominations will be accepted until that time.)
- Approval of Club Caller for 2023
- Anniversary Dance Preparations
- Lesson Preparations



TRIANGLE SQUARES
ANNIVERSARY DANCE
JANUARY 20, 2023
DENTON CIVIC CENTER
(THE 'ROTUNDA')
321 E. MCKINNEY
DENTON TX

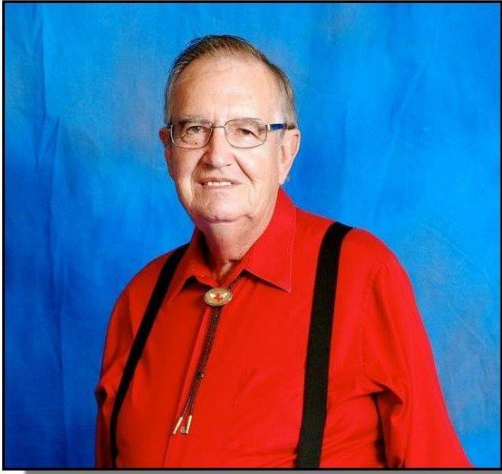


Soup, Stews,
Cornbread, Desserts
Door Prizes
\$10 per person



Callers: Tim Tyl &
Toby Thomason
Cuer: David Berling
Early Rounds 7-7:30
Square Dancing 7:30-9:30





Cover Letter and Essay Nominating Ed Ferguson for Nortex Lifetime Achievement Awards

Good day distinguished Chair and members of the Lifetime Achievement Awards Committee. It is with great pleasure and anticipation to present to you our essay regarding our nominee for the Marvin and Helen Matus Lifetime Achievement Award for "Our friend" Ed Ferguson. I have been a member of NorTex for five years and now a new president for my club the Triangle Squares. At my first Nortex meeting, I was made aware of this award and immediately thought of our Ed Ferguson.

I had become a member of the Highlanders Squares dance club of Highland Village and Calico Kickers of Lake Dallas in the late seventies and early eighties, and when visiting other clubs in the Denton area I remembered visiting with Ed Ferguson on occasion. Life happens, as we all know, and we left square dancing until our children were grown. In 2017 we returned to dancing, and I met Ed again. We would dance and he would always share old stories of his square dancing and his life experiences. Ed has always been that special person who works behind the scenes, sweeps and mops, working at the guest table, manning the honey pot station and wherever assistance is needed, always so modest and never wanting to take any recognition for his work.

I wanted to write the essay, but I needed help to fill the time period that I had been away, so I secretly began to ask our members for more stories. One day I was approached by Mary Colter, past member of the Swinging Stars and Independent, with the idea of interviewing Ed during several of our clubs' monthly dinners. Mary, a retired schoolteacher, asked Ed if he would share his stories to her and me. She said she was writing a book of stories of her special friends. This was used as cover for the real intent of preparing this essay. For the next several months, the club would gather for our monthly dinners. At the conclusion we would start back to work asking for his stories and writing notes as fast as we could. The attached essay contains several stories from Ed which shed light on his fifty years of service to square dancing and his community. A few stories may not pertain to square dancing, but they show a part of his life that has made him the wonderful, kind, and helpful person he is. Ed is an honorary lifetime member of our club, and we want to share his stories with everyone!

Respectfully,
Dale and Carol Chegvidden, President
Triangle Squares

Our Friend, Ed

Oklahoma has raised at least one great son. Ed Ferguson was born in Leedy, Oklahoma. He was the youngest of four boys. The 1930's were difficult times for many families and the Fergusons were no exception.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was created in 1933 by President Roosevelt. In its eight years of existence, it put 8.5 million Americans to work. One of the WPA's project was the two-room schoolhouse Ed and his brothers attended for grades 1 – 8. It had a good basketball court and Ed spent many hours shooting hoops, developing skills of leadership, sportsmanship, community, communication, and maybe even patience.

As Ed tells it, "my brothers and I walked to school each day, and I was fortunate to be hired by the school to build the fire each day. Some years we burned coal and other years it was butane, but I had to be sure the two rooms were warm when the teacher and students arrived. I also had to sweep the floors and was awarded a much-appreciated sum of \$12.50 each month for my work.

I remember the first time I drove a John Deere tractor. I drove across from our house and down the road a bit and then the darn tractor ran out of gas. I walked home and told dad the tractor was out of gas. He said, "Take the truck and a can of gas and get the tractor working". Driving the truck was not bad, but have you ever tried to lift a five gallon can filled with gas to the top of the tractor, when you were elementary school age? No easy task.

Living in the country, learning to drive was like a rite of passage. First it was probably a small tractor in a large field where one could not hit anything. Next came driving a large tractor in a small field where one may have to dodge trees and stay out of fence lines. That experience made an easy transition to cars or trucks.

I knew where most of the kids in our two-room school lived. It was easy for me, say about age 14 or 15, to drive the pickup or car and pick up a friend and head to town. Our area was like an extended family. We knew the preachers, bankers, teachers, superintendent, and grocery clerks, etc. and all seemed to know my brothers and me.

The country school two-roomer only went through eighth grade so now it was the bigger high school about ten miles away. The bus route was about twenty miles long picking up children in the morning and dropping them off in the afternoon. Day after day the same old boring route was easy to memorize/ Besides, I already knew from elementary years where everyone lived. A couple months into the school year, one afternoon the bus driver did not show up. There sat the school bus with a load of kids anxious to get home (to chores, etc.). The superintendent came on the bus, looked at the students and remembered he had seen me driving around with friends in town during the summer. "Can you drive this bus?" he asked me. "Sure", I said. "It's like a truck". "Then take these kids home", came the reply.

I completed the route and next day came a meeting with the superintendent, bus driver, and me. We agreed on a plan. The bus driver would do the morning route, I would do the afternoon route. We continued that plan for the rest of the year.

The next summer I was 16 and could get my driver's license. I went to the bank where they issued drivers licenses. While in the bank the superintendent came in and seemed surprised to see me. "What are you doing here?" he asked. "Getting my driver's license", I replied. "You are telling me you drove that school bus in the afternoon nearly all year and never had a license." I don't remember my reply.

When I was 17 (1958) I left Leedy, Oklahoma and joined a wheat harvesting crew. That summer I worked in several central and northern states and was able to learn a lot of geography while on the job. After that stint I worked oil fields and did truck driving in Colorado for three or four years. I've had interesting jobs, which I'll get to later in the story.

My ex-wife and I were married in 1970. We were both hard workers and I worked a lot of overtime, evenings, weekends, and just about anything to make a little more cash. One evening my wife said, "We are working too much, and we just need to have some fun. I hear they are offering square dance lessons on Tuesday evenings, and I think we should reserve every Tuesday for fun and square dance lessons". That did not sound exciting to me, but I was tired of so much evening work, I thought it might be a good idea to sign up for 16 weeks. I also wanted to keep her happy. So every Tuesday evening we go for lessons. After about eight or ten lessons, I realize her square dance partner was her boyfriend. To end this part of my story--they got a divorce, we got a divorce, my ex-wife married the square dancer boyfriend. I did not marry his ex, but I moved to Texas. As they say, "I got here as fast as I could".

Some of my other jobs included being an insurance adjuster and following major storms across the United States. One incident I remember vividly. A vicious storm had crossed this area and I went as an adjuster. A grandmother told me of holding a grandchild as tightly as she could and still the storm sucked the baby out of her arms. The baby was never found. I had nightmares for months after hearing her tale. As far as I know the grandmother was never able to make peace with the incident.

Another story when I was an adjuster involved a client. I went out and estimate the damage to his property at \$68,000 and ready to write his check. "Oh no!" he claimed. "That is never enough". "We'll get an estimate of damages, and we'll see how it compares". We got an estimate, and it came in at \$48,000. I wrote him a check for that amount.

In October a storm caused a large tree to fall on a client's house and car. "We'll pay all your damages", I told him. In the course of the conversation, he asked where I was from. "Texas", I answered. He was rather upset and said, "Send me an adjuster from New York". "That is fine with me," I said. "I'll have him here about June 15th ."

I worked for Farmers Insurance for 38 years. My check went for direct deposit to Farmers Insurance Credit Union in California. The most one could get at the ATM in those days was \$300, so it was not uncommon to have \$2,000 or \$3,000 in cash hidden someplace in the house because clients often times paid incash, and rather than keep large amounts of cash at the office, we took it home for safe-keeping.

Those lessons in Oklahoma in square dancing have led me on an exciting path of dancing, meeting new friends, good exercise, and good fellowship. I started dancing in Texas in 1971 when the caller was C. O. Guest with Swinging Squares.

Since that time, I have been president of Lone Star Solo (1971), President of Yellow Rockers (1975), President of TASSA 1976, and am currently president of Plus 4's for over 15 years.

I want to tell you about my most exciting car. Some of you may remember that beautiful 1960 Pontiac Grand Ventura. My prize possession was a black, two-door, hard top. It had a leather interior and let me tell you, it was FAST, FAST, FAST. I can still feel the wind blowing through the car with all the windows down, and let me tell you, all the girls notice a black, fast, Grand Ventura.

As I look back, it is interesting to reflect on how things change. When I was a teen it seems one of my goals was to leave home. Now that I've traveled, worked, moved, etc. I find home may be the best place to be."

Ed lived in Texas in the 1970s and became active in the square dance community. Ed was a charter member of TASSD (Texas Association of Single Square Dancers) in March 1973. The first office he held was Vice-President with Lone Star Solos in 1974. The next year (1975) he became President of Yellow Rockers, and from the years (1974-1975) he became President of TASSD.

"In the 1970s square dancing involved many dancers. The National Conventions would have 25,000 to 30,000 dancers attending. There was a large dance in San Antonio, and I noticed a high number of police milling around, so I asked, "You afraid we may give you some trouble"? "Oh no," came the reply, "we are here for the people who cross the river?" This attendance continued until the mid-1980s when it started to drop off to about 2,500 to 3,500 dancers at Nationals by 2020s.

I have always been active in community work and try to help out wherever they need an extra hand. I was a member of the Elks for a number of years. I took part in many demonstration dances at nursing homes, senior citizen centers, and we even danced on a wagon in the parade at the North Texas State Fair in Denton (about 2006-2010). We also were square dancing on a wagon in the parade for the State Fair in Dallas. I have been a Liaison Officer and try to bring organizations together. Another activity I held with pride was Promenade Currier for several years. I was out of square dancing for about ten years and in the mid-90s came back as an Independent. I just felt the pull back to wonderful friends, fine exercise, and good fellowship.

About 2005 I became a member of Plus-4s and have been their president for the past 15-plus years. I am still president, and that club always does Plus Dancing. Often times I travel out of state to support square dancing. This has included time was spent in Red River, New Mexico and Fun Valley, Colorado.

I am an Honorary Member of Triangle Squares and let me tell you one of the many times I have supported that club. The Schmidt's Dance was coming up and the club rented a large building for the expected extra dancers. The bathroom was a total mess, and no one seemed to want to clean it, or even help clean it. I decided the best way to get that job done in good order would be to get on my hands and knees and give it a good old-fashioned scrubbing. The bathroom nearly sparkled when I finished the job.

**I have often chosen to be the "worker bee"
rather than the "queen bee". I do the work no matter who gets the credit."**

Although Ed did not win the Nortex Award, we know he has contributed immeasurably to square dancing and his community and we thank him for that.

Lessons Graduation December 2022



Demonstration Dance at Coppell Farmers Market

