

HOTLANTA SQUARES

Hot Tips

JULY 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

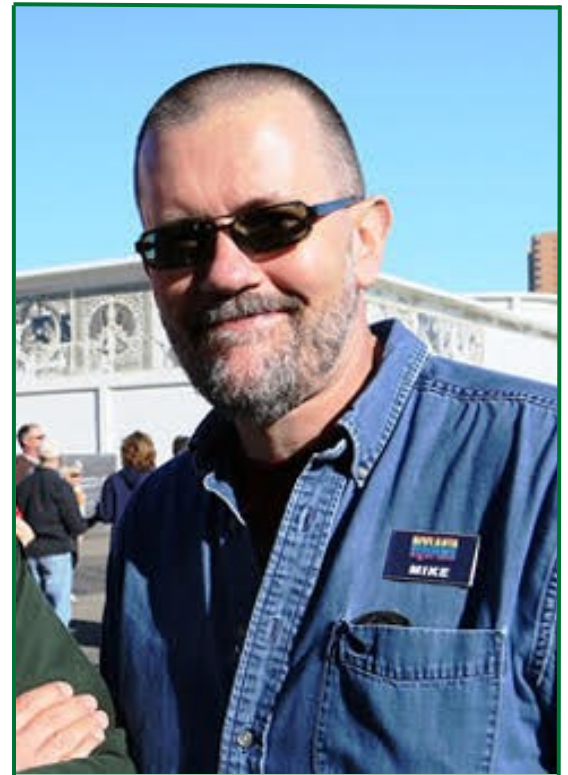
- **June 11th**
Dive (thru) into
Summer Dance
with Rick Gittelman
from Tucson, Arizona
- **June 13th**
Nominations for Open
Board positions close.
- **June 20th, Monday**
7:30—8:30 p.m.
Hotlanta Squares
Annual Membership
meeting and Board
Elections.
- **July 1-4, 2016**
The 33rd annual
IAGSDC Convention
in Toronto
- **July 11th, Monday**
New Mainstream
Class Open House
week one
- **July 18th, Monday**
New Mainstream
Class Open House
week two
- **July 25th, Monday**
New Mainstream
Class begins (last date
for new dancers to
join this class)
- **July 25th, Monday**
New Plus Class begins.
- **July 30th**
Mid Summer Dance
with Johnny Preston
from Temecula, CA
- **August 2nd, Tuesday**
New Advanced and
Challenge Classes
begin
- **September 24 Dance**
with Pam Courts
from Cincinnati, OH
- **October 29th**
Halloween Dance
with Darren Gallina
- **Jan. 13th-15th, 2017**
PDP 2017

Meet Mike Shagina our new Hotlanta Squares Caller!

Hotlanta Squares are very fortunate to have Mike Shagina step up and fill the void left by Johnny's departure. Most of the longtime Hotlanta Squares members know Mike very well but newer members like me maybe not so much. So I put some questions to Mike so we can all "better know our Caller".

Me. . . How did you become interested in square dancing and involved with Hotlanta Squares?

Mike. . My first experience with square dancing was in 6th grade. The nuns had us square dance for PE. I think we were taught maybe 5 or 6 calls and dancing those for a couple of weeks. I always hear other people talk about something similar during their childhood. I started taking classes with the Hotlanta Squares in the fall of 2003. I had been learning to 2-step at Hoedowns and one Tuesday night I met Alan F. When the next open house came around he convinced me to come and give it a try. The people were nice but I wasn't so sure about square dancing, but when the club did an exhibition tip to show what



full Mainstream looked like, I was impressed. I thought they were so good and I wanted to learn to do that, so that got me started with the club. After learning Mainstream and Plus I was (again) convinced by Alan that I needed to go to convention, which was in Phoenix that summer. It was there that I saw the full potential of

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Meet Mike continued

what this activity was about. Dancing to great callers and dancing with people from other clubs around the country was so much fun, I was hooked.

Me. . . What board or other positions have you held in Hotlanta Squares?

Mike. . My first board position was webmaster in 2005. The club by-laws were changed at that time to make webmaster a board position since it was becoming very important to have a good web presence and a useful and informative site. So I designed and built our first real website showing the club's identity, history, and photos. After that I became Vice-President (again, Alan), President for 2007-8, Marketing and Promotions for 2 terms, and I was also Chairperson for PDP 9 which was held in Stone Mountain Park in January, 2010. I was also heavily involved in Gone with the Windmill, our 2011 IAGSDC convention, doing the graphics, dance schedule, and caller coordinator.

Me. . . How/when did you become interested in calling?

Mike. . I first tried calling, along with several other club members, back in 2007. We had no one in the club who could call if the club caller at the time, JR St. Jean, couldn't make it to class or quit, so we felt we needed to de-



velop someone within the club to try and protect the club's long-term future. JR held a 2 hour intro to calling one afternoon and we got to see things from the other side of the microphone. It wasn't pretty, but we got a hint at what was involved. Not knowing enough to be afraid, I was the only one who decided (though it was probably because of Alan) to attend caller's school at the convention in Denver that year. There I learned how to write choreography and that I was terrified of being up in front of people. I remember going for my final consultation with one of the coaches. Debra Carroll Jones gave me a look that said, "You poor thing, you just wasted 3 days of your life." So I thought that would be it for me and calling, but once we started dancing again in the fall the club was very supportive. I got to call a short tip here, a singing call there, and gradually I was getting better. I next attended another caller's school at the DC convention in 2009. This time it went much better and I called several GCA tips during convention, and for the first time I thought maybe I can do this. Since then I've been fortunate enough to call some guest tips at fly-ins and have filled in, a couple times, on Monday night. But like any skill, without regular practice you are not going to develop and advance so until an opportunity came along, calling was just something I did and not something I do.

Now that I'm calling each week all that has changed. Calling for the club and teaching classes is a big commitment, for me and for the club. We're in this together now, so let's see what we can make of it.

New Mainstream and Plus classes starting in July

Hotlanta Squares will be holding Open Houses for new basic/mainstream dancers on Mondays July 11th and July 18th.

Class will begin in earnest on Monday July 25th. After July 25th mainstream class will be closed to new dancers.

Please, invite your friends, co-workers, family, maid, yard person, pool boy/girl to come join us. Traditionally word of mouth and personal invites by members has been our main source of new dancers. We always have our friendly angels to make newcomers welcome but it seems that the newbies that stick around are the ones that have a long time friend or acquaintance already in the club.

You could nicely ask folks to come join us - or - you can rave on about the fun/laughs/hugging/exercise/new_friends/snacks/hugs/dances/mental_workout/hugs/nationally_known_callers/our_new_caller/IAGSDC/Convention/hugs !!



We'll also be promoting this through our Meetup Group. Last year we had a fairly good turnout of Meetup folks for Basic/MS class but I don't think any stuck around to graduate. Keeping our Meetup folks' interest is extra challenging since they usually don't know anyone when they walk in the door. They need some extra angeling !



And for all you experts that have been through MS a half a dozen times remember we have a new caller! Mike's style and point of view may provide new insights and freshen up the old mainstream class.

Advanced & Challenge
classes begin Tuesday
August 2nd.

Happy



Clara Welch — May 6th
 Eddie Bishop — May 13th
 Dave Tillis — May 18th
 Bill Willis — May 20th
 Mark Snider — May 25th
 Neil Kalin — May 29th



and
LGBT
 Pride
 Month

Birthdays



Cis Hinkle June 4th
 Joan Campitelli — June 4th
 Tom Isenhour — June 13th
 Brad Hindahl — June 14th
 Vinnie Metzger — June 16th
 Mary Davis — June 24th

Goodbye to Johnny

I'm sure many of you have wondered why Johnny Jones, our caller for 5 years, left the club so suddenly. Simply stated this is what happened. It was time for the annual club-caller contract review (required by the contract). The board, after much discussion, decided that it would be in the best interest of the club to make a couple of changes to the club-caller relationship. We wanted to:

1) Dissolve the written club/caller contract. *Some background, from Hotlanta Squares inception in 2001 through 2012 there was no formal club/caller contract. In February of 2013, two years after Johnny started calling for us a contract was created. At that time Johnny did not feel a contract was necessary but went along with the board's request.*

2) Introduce a second club caller who would teach the Monday Mainstream and Plus classes and increase Johnny's instruc-

tion time on Tuesday nights by 30 minutes. *More background, it is not uncommon for a club to have more than one caller and the board felt it was vital for the club's future to have a caller in waiting when the day came that Johnny decided to retire from calling altogether. Also in order to achieve 2) we had dissolve or revise the contract which named Johnny as the sole club caller. Johnny did not wish to review the contract and after our proposed changes were presented to him he resigned without any discussion.*

While we knew there was a possibility that Johnny might leave us, this was not the outcome the board had intended.

For many of us Johnny is the only home club caller we've known and we thank him for years of excellent instruction and dancing fun. Now it's important for the Club to continue moving forward promoting Modern Western Square Dance with a LGBT flair and as always in a way that is fun for all.

Annual Club Meeting and Board Elections

The Hotlanta Squares Annual Club meeting is scheduled for Monday June 20th when we will vote to fill 4 of the 8 board positions. It works like this. . .

The President, Vice President and President Emeritus each have a one year term and each year a new Vice President is elected. Then in musical chairs fashion the previous Vice President becomes the new President and the previous President moves to the President Emeritus role. The 5 other board positions are two year terms but elections are staggered so the Secretary, Web Master and Marketing Coordinator positions are elected on the even numbered years and the Treasurer and Events Coordinator positions are elected on the odd numbered years. 2016 being an even numbered year means we will be voting for Vice President, Secretary, Marketing Coordinator and Webmaster at our June 20th Annual Meeting.



If you would like to nominate a Hotlanta Square member (including yourself) for any of the open board positions please let a current board member know by June 13th. An outline of the duties of each of these board positions follows.

Duties of the Vice President

- Act in the absence of the President;
- Assist the President in Club oversight and coordination of the Board;
- Assist the President in coordination of the annual class schedule;
- Collect suggestions from the general membership and present those suggestions to the Board for discussion;
- Review and compare the monthly financial statement with the monthly bank statement;
- Assist the Events Coordinator with caller scheduling for special events and dances.

Duties of the Marketing Coordinator

- Coordinate marketing and promotions; Assist the President in Club oversight and coordination of the Board;
- Provide graphic design and printing;
- Provide flyers, posters and business cards for club dances, open houses and special events;;
- Publish a monthly club newsletter .

Hotlanta Squares Board Elections

Duties of the Secretary

- Maintain up-to-date written minutes of Club and Board meetings, and distribute each new set of minutes to the Board of Directors within five (5) business days after each Board of Directors meeting.
- Maintain a roster of Members, which shall be made available to Club members as reasonably determined by the Board of Directors;
- Handle all regular Club correspondence, except as otherwise governed by these bylaws;
- After getting the authorization of at least one other Board member, distribute regular Club notices by email (or other equivalent services) to all Members who provide email addresses;
- Maintain all Club records except as otherwise governed by these bylaws;
- Serve as a procedural expert in all matters relating to running meetings, along with the President;
- Keep and maintain an up-to-date copy of the bylaws and standing club policies.



Duties of the Webmaster

- Provide development and management of web pages, web content and links;
- Provide oversight of online social media pages, online communities, sites and equivalents in the name of the Club, along with the President and Vice President; and
- Obtain list of calls covered each week from the Club caller and then publish such list regularly to facilitate learning by current students.

Dive (Thru)
into
Summer
Dance
with
Rick
Gittelman

From Tucson Arizona

City of Light
1379 Tullie Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Members \$8.00;
Non-Members \$10.00
Non-Dancers Free !

Visit our web site:
<http://www.HotlantaSquares.org>

**HOTLANTA
SQUARES**

Saturday
June 11th, 2016

7:00 p.m.
to
10:00 p.m.

Alternating
Mainstream, Plus
and Advanced
with a
C Star Tip

