



DIXIE ROUND DANCE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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Future DRDC Meetings

February 4-5, 2022, Fultondale, AL
May 20-21, 2022, Chattanooga, TN
September 7-8, 2022, Chattanooga, TN

We hope to see you all at ALL of these DRDC meetings . . . Bring a friend . . .Bring two !!

Chairman's Message

At last month's fall DRDC dance weekend, "Perfidia in Brazil" was on the evening program. As always happens when we dance this 2014 Hall of Fame favorite, we look at each other and remember one of our most mortifying experiences. At our first or second ICBDA, we found ourselves standing next to the choreographers when the dramatic opening music of "Perfidia in Brazil" began to play during the Let's Dance Together session. Thoroughly intimidated, we messed up horribly. Of course, we realized later that probably no one saw our mistakes because watching eyes would have been drawn to the beautiful dancing of George and Pam Hurd.



Since that first (non) encounter with the Hurds, we have had multiple opportunities to attend their workshops and benefit from their expert teaching, warm encouragement, and fun personalities. We know you will enjoy reading Pam's lively account of how she and George got together and started their round dance partnership:

A lot of dancers are surprised to learn that George and I were both career US Air Force personnel. We originally met at Osan AFB in Korea in 1981 (he was my boss and still thinks he is!! Ha!). We lost track of each other until July 1985 when the Air Force sent me to Anchorage, AK. I had been there a few days and was on a date with another Air Force NCO. While chatting about our prospective military experiences, I began telling stories about my favorite "leader" when my date said he was reluctant to mention it, but there was a George Hurd stationed there at Elmendorf. On my next trip to the restroom, I noticed a telephone book and phone. As my friends know, I am nothing if not impulsive. I looked up and called George. We arranged to meet the next day and have been together almost every day since. It really feels like a relationship that was "meant to be."

We are both very active people and spent a year trying to find something that we enjoyed doing together. We tried fishing (I got queasy in a fishing boat down in Seattle), biking (fun, but not a life changing activity), ham radio (George got me through the morse code requirements by tapping on a bar for practice), traveling (didn't have much money and we had custody of George's youngest kids), and multiple other time-filling pursuits. Neither of us had ever danced other than a tipsy one step at a night club. In fact, when I was

growing up, dancing was forbidden by my church in Texas—my parents even sent me to school with a note saying that I was not allowed to participate in Physical Education's square dance classes!!!

One of George's subordinates was a budding Square Dance caller, who managed to convince folks to try square dancing at a couple of after-hour functions. When he decided to start a class in September, we were ready to sign on. While shopping for square dance attire, I quickly realized I loved trading my Air Force uniform for the appropriate fancy shoes, outrageous petticoats, colorful full skirts, and glittering jewelry!!!! George was NOT as thrilled as I was (surprise!), but he was still game to dress up – even buying his first (and only) pair of cowboy boots! We joined a second square dance class because we are both nothing if not obsessive about our interests and got an award the following April for perfect attendance.

Round dancing was done between square dance tips, but we weren't interested because the participants didn't seem to be having as much fun as square dancers—no hooping and hollering. However, we decided to give it a try and the rest as they sayis history. We fell madly in love with round dancing. By the time we were married in December 1989, we were square dancing 3 times a week and attending 2 to 3 round dance sessions as well. Often we took classes from 1pm to 7pm and covered all 6 phases. One of George's teenage sons angrily stomped his feet and told us that parents were "supposed to stay home!!!!" We were definitely hooked.

When our round dance teacher started having medical problems in 1995, he asked us to cover for him any time he was unable to come to class. We soon realized that the desire to help folks enjoy our favorite activity was more than just something for entertainment. This was what we wanted to do together for life especially since teaching and cueing incorporated our love of travel and our openness to meet new people and learn new things. We are really blessed to be able to dance, teach, dance, travel, dance, and make new friends.

Hopefully this pandemic will not kill this beloved activity – we don't believe anything can be as fulfilling as the sharing of a passion that strengthens health in mind, body, and spirit. Learning something together and sharing the joy and laughter of moving to music can't be explained, only experienced!!!

Thank you, Pam! Like the Hurds, we sincerely believe that we benefit as much from the joy of round dancing as we do from its demands on our minds and bodies. But, the continuation of round dancing depends as much upon each beginning and advanced round dancer's active participation as it does upon the creativity, choreography, passion, and commitment of our cuers and teachers. So, round dancers, get out there and dance whenever you have the chance!

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