

DOUBLE H SQUARE DANCE CLUB

The group that became the Double H Square Dance Club started 16 years ago (September 7, 1984) as the Grin 'N Square It Square Dance Class in the basement of the Huber Heights VFW Hall. The class, taught by John & Gay Chevalier, started with 34 people. On April 15, 1985, some of the class members met at the Western Sizzling Steak House in Fairborn to organize a club. The club name, Double H Square Dance Club, was taken from the name Huber Heights. The class name, Grin 'N Square It Dance Class, has been used for all succeeding classes. Nine of the original class members (including the original vice president, Mac & Sharon McKibben; the original treasurer, Doris Botkin; and two of the angels for the class, Nean Austin and Doris Botkin, are still club members.

The first dance was held on June 7, 1985, at the Monticello School on Alter Road. We almost had to cancel the dance, but the school principal agreed to fill in for the custodian. Many clubs raided, and the school was packed! The Shooting Stars alone brought over 11 squares. The treasurer smiled all the way to the bank. In June 1986, the club moved and started dancing at the Weisenborn School in Huber Heights.

Our first club banner raid was May 4, 1985, at the Grand Squares. Bill Everhart was calling. The raid at Shooting Stars on April 4, 1992, was the 250th raid for the club. John & Gay Chevalier; Clay & Doris Harmsworth, and Sharon McKibben participated in both the first and the 250th raids.

Our club is unique because we have three callers and a cuer as club members, John & Gay Chevalier, Dick & Rose Winkler, and Tom and Maryann Reinhardt. We also support two beginner classes, one in Huber Heights and one in New Carlisle.

The club launched Traveling Box in May 1990 at Hoosier Corners and when last heard from, it was at the Jolly Twirlers Square Dance Club in Wilmar, Minnesota. Maybe someday it will travel home.

Annual events for the club include a Bash the IRS dance in mid-April, a pot-luck dinner for mainstream graduation, a summer picnic, a fall hay ride/hoedown, the fall Johnny Appleseed Dance with Joe Chiles and the Country Gentlemen, a club Christmas party, and a New Year's Eve Dance.