

DAYTON SQUARE DANCE CLUB

Grace Wolff, Michael Solomon, Milo Clingman, the Grazianos, the Tuplipans, and Dave McDevitt were instrumental in forming the Dayton Square Dance Club in the spring of 1950. The club was created from a square dance class taught by Michael Solomon, who worked for the City of Dayton Recreation Department.

This was the first dance club in the Dayton area featuring western style square dancing. Burkhardt Center was the first hall. A series of eight lessons, taught by Dave McDevitt, was necessary to belong to the club. Calls were taken from the eastern style (50/50 dancing) and mixed with new calls from the western part of the United States to make a different style of dancing. It was so popular there was a waiting list of people who wanted to take lessons.

Various halls were used. In the wintertime the dances would be held in elementary schools. In the summertime the pavilion at the Community Golf Course was the club's dance hall.

The club started to expand. Dave McDevitt moved from the area, and Gus Heismann from Cincinnati was chosen to be the club caller. Friday was always the club dance night. Since there were four or five Fridays in a month and some of the dancers wanted a change in the format, the group chose to dance on the first, third and fifth Fridays. The Dayton Whirlaways was started and danced on the second and fourth Fridays, thereby providing the dancers with a varied program.