

KITTYHAWK SQUARES

It all started in Rex Parham's barber shop. Emery Wheat and Rex were tired of driving to Cincinnati to square dance at a single's club. The club in Middletown was disbanding, so with encouragement from their friends and using their own money, the fellows decided to "get something going" in Dayton. This was fall 1977. There were not enough experienced dancers to start a club so they needed to have a lesson class. Emery began to talk the idea up and finally came up with four men and four women who were willing to work toward a singles' club. He suggested each put \$25 in the kitty as it was rather apparent that they would lose money on the lessons. Hardly anyone was willing to do that. Dorothy Hollingworth was willing to put two ads in the Fairborn paper for two weeks in succession. Each ad cost \$15. Rex had printed, at his own expense, 500 flyers advertising the lessons. He and Fern Ochs distributed the flyers at Parents Without Partners, Widows & Widowers and Grace Methodist Church. Emery had 200 handbills printed and he placed advertisements in the *Kettering and Centerville Times*, Miamisburg and West Carrollton papers.

There were many meetings held at Rex's barber shop and in his home. The weather was bad that fall, and lessons were delayed. The class was started the first Wednesday in February 1978. Jack Watts taught the first ten weeks at St. George Episcopal Church on Far Hills Ave. Steve Back from Centerville taught the class for three or four weeks. Ed Raney from Cincinnati, became the regular club caller. The last three classes were held at the church of the Cross UM Church on Wilmington Pike. During this period, Emery became ill. Rex kept the lesson class going and the club did not lose money.

That first class graduated in June 1978. At graduation, a club was formed and plans were made for a dance. The Civilian Club at WPAFB was rented. An organizational meeting was held on June 12, 1978 at Perkins Pancake House on Dorothy Lane. Those present voted and the name *KittyHawk* was chosen. It was decided that married couples would be included for membership. Charter members of the club were:

Dorothy Hollingworth	Emery Wheat
Frank Klippel	Rex Parham
Larry Estes	Mary Miller
Dale Dunford	Gladys Sherman
Jane Burrous	Fern Ochs
Dorothy Fraser	Vic Carpenter

Gladys, Jane and Rex are still with the club. Emery and Frank are deceased. Larry Estes was elected as president and Rex was vice president. The first dance for the new club was planned at this meeting and held July 12, 1978 at the Civilian club with Ed Raney calling. The dance was open to singles and couples. After 18 months dancing at the Civilian Club, the club was moved to another building on the base.

On August 6, 1980, KittyHawks moved activities to Belmon UM Church on Smithville Road. The club splintered and some members formed Twin Base Squares of Fairborn.

KITTYHAWK SQUARES

-2-

March 20, 1981, the KittyHawks moved to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 901 E. Stroop Road in Kettering. Ed Raney resigned and was replaced by Sam Dunn. KittyHawks still retain Sam Dunn as the club caller. We stayed with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church until December 1996, when we were notified that the church's common areas were to have some major renovations done, thus requiring us to leave the facility indefinitely. The club decided to move to our current venue at the Lathrem Senior Center at the Kettering Recreation Center complex.

Past presidents of the club are:

Larry Estes

Dave Barnett

Dick Musselman

Charlie Prass

Charlie & Denise Neu

Charlie & Alberta Simon

Rex Parham

Charlotte Campbell

Tom Robey

Charlie Foor

Hane & Liz Gladney

The one thing KittyHawk Squares is most proud of is the annual Myrt Foor (MF) benefit dance to collect food and money for the Greenmount Food Pantry. In November 1992, the 5th MF dance raised over \$815 in cash and 1,000 cans and boxes of food. Kettering Mayor Dick Hartman presented the club the "1992 U.S. Mayors' End Hunger Award" for its contribution in 1991. Later a communication was received from Jeff Bridges, national chairman of the U.S. Mayors' End Hunger Award Program commending the club.

As of 2/17/99

Gladys Sherman