

CONCORD CLOVERLEAF SQUARES

We are the new kid on the block. In February 1999 we celebrated our 5th year as the Concord Cloverleaf Squares.

In the fall of 1992, Jim and Joyce McGuire with Don and Kathy Pence, were taking round dance lessons with Chuck Jobe. Jim had talked several times about starting a square dance club in our community. Don told Jim that if he would continue with round dance lessons he would help organize a club.

The McGuires hosted a meeting and invited all dancers in the area. There were 30 people plus Sam Dunn. Sam gave a lot of suggestions to consider and was apprehensive about the whole idea. The ladies in the living room were positive and the men had a negative outlook as they munched goodies in the kitchen.

The second meeting was held at the McGuires with 26 in attendance. The tone had changed. A suggestion was made that we begin the club with a lesson class. Jess Fugate from Sidney, Ohio, was contacted and he accepted. We owe the Hi Point See Saws big time for the support that they gave our classes for many years. They were definitely "angels."

The first lesson class consisted of both couples and singles. The first class graduated August 1, 1993, with 11 members. The Concord Cloverleaf Squares was born February 1994.

Jim McGuire was our first president and Ray Beavers was our first raid chairman. Mike King was our first caller at the cost of \$65.00. Admission to our dance was \$2.50. Each of us paid to get into our home dances until our treasury was built up. We are now dancing at the Concord Community Center, 3263 North State Route 560, Urbana, OH 43078 – 4 miles north of Westville. We dance on the 1st Friday or Saturday from 8 to 10:30 PM.

Submitted by Historian Leila Zerkle
1999

Sometime around 1996-97 we had an "Amateur Caller Night", and Ray Beavers decided to become a caller. So pretty soon he became the instructor for our lesson classes. Each year we were able to add a few new members.

Over the years we have had excellent instructors for our lesson classes – Jess Fugate, Ray Beavers, Nathaniel Arnett, Jason Raleigh, and Gary Kincaid. Jess was a dear friend of square dancing and along with the others contributed so much to our club.

They each have been there for the many demos we have planned at local festivals and at nursing homes.

Since we were still a relatively new and small club we had to do lots of raiding (sometimes 3 and 4 times a week and even 2 times a day if there were any afternoon plus evening dances!) in order to get others to come to our home dances.

That was always fun because we loved to car pool and communicate between cars with CB's. It made us a close-knit "family." Many times that was when we were able to make decisions about club business.

Our most memorable dance was probably our "Tip in the Sand." The Community Center had just built a sand volleyball court so we had everyone dance in the sand for the first tip of the evening. Homer Magnet was our caller and we had over 200 dancers that night.

Other theme dances we have done for several years are the Hillbilly dance in the spring and the Hobo dance in the fall. We also do a 4th of July Picnic dance.

As with all clubs, members come and members go. Out of our founding club members we still have Jim & Joyce McGuire, Leila Zerkle, Dick & June Walser, and Ray Beavers. Other "long-standing" members include Annajean Owen, Mariana Brown, Fred & Terri Organ, Terry & Shirley King, Mary Eaton, and Anne Tulleners.

In 2010, Dick & June Walser were the MVDC Honor Couple.

Each club knows how the office of "Raid Chairman" is vital to the life of a club. We wish to thank Ray Beavers, Leila Zerkle, June Walser, and Kathy Divens as they have each done a fantastic job planning raids and retrievals during the times they held that office.

Until the last few years, we have attended State and National Conventions as a club and have many wonderful memories and stories. Especially memorable was 2001, the year that 16 Cloverleaves flew to California, rented 3 vans and made our way from San Francisco to Monterey and down the coast to Yosemite, the Sequoias and on to the convention in Anaheim.

Whether just one couple or several members there have always been some Cloverleaf Club members present at the National Conventions from the 44th in Birmingham (1995) to the 60th in Detroit (2011).

Submitted by Jim & Joyce McGuire & Dick & June Walser – 08-06-2011