



64th NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® Springfield, Massachusetts JUNE 24, 25, 26 & 27, 2015



4 Seasons

Counting down, less than six months before the 64th National Square Dance Convention® in Springfield, City of Firsts, Massachusetts, June 24-27 2015!! You still have plenty of time to register for this once in a life-time event and to order things such as the New England Cookbook, featured later in this release.

We have added a new tour of the City of Springfield, details to come. We are also working to bring discounted shuttle service from the airport to the convention.

We have added new hotels and rooms. Please check with registration when you are completing your registration form. Do not forget to get your bus pass if you are not staying at the headquarters hotels. You can also purchase our cookbook, the sew and save book, "Needle Nook Notes," the Tribute to Neil Diamond Dinner and Show tickets, and syllabus for Rounds and Contra on the registration form. We highly recommend you purchase your program book using this form. This is the only place the program book and Daily Schedule will be sold. If you have already registered for the convention and did not order any of the above, just complete another form and add the additional items you want to purchase. Please add your registration number to the form.

Many items can be purchased from our website 64nsdc.org. Ways and Means also travels around to conventions in many states and has registration forms and many of the items for sale. We personally will be attending the Mississippi, Florida, and Ohio state conventions at the first of the year. I know we will have a table at the South Carolina convention in January.

Thanks to Shirley McEwen and Joan Gumkowski for the comments on the cookbook below:

The "New England Cookbook" that is being featured at the 64th National Convention® this coming year in Springfield, MA, is a brand new book authored by New Englanders. Featured recipes were submitted by square dancers, their friends, and some of the famous New Englanders who reside here.

Included are approximately 200 delicious recipes, many New England historical notes, food facts, and helpful hints as well as some cuisine history of New England. There are many colorful photos from various famous locations in N.E., such as lighthouses, panoramic views of some of our beautiful mountains decked out in fabulous autumn colors, and popular lakes and coastal seashores.

Locating a recipe is simple in this book due to the table of contents at the very beginning of the recipe section. The colorful dividers are helpful, separating the recipes by category and the colorful hard cover provides easy cleanup from splashes and fingerprints.

We the authors are very proud of this beautiful book and urge everyone to get a copy.

Lynda and I have enjoyed reading the New England Cookbook and even if you do not cook you will enjoy the pictures, information and quality of this book.

We thank you for taking the time to read our release, and we really would enjoy seeing you at the 64th NSDC® in Springfield, MA June 24-27, 2015. We hope you had a great holiday season, and are enjoying 2015!

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT NSDC 2015!

Ed & Lynda Willis



64th NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION®

Springfield, Massachusetts
JUNE 24, 25, 26 & 27, 2015



4 Seasons

New Tour Offered

Welcome to Springfield, MA

Thursday, 6/25 Friday, 6/26 Saturday, 6/27 @ 9 am Cost \$35.00

The oldest and largest of all the places named Springfield in the USA!

During the 3 1/2 hour guided bus tour, you'll get to see:

Court Square, the historic center of the city

The site of Shays Rebellion of 1787

McKnight Historic District, wood-framed, late Victorian neighborhood

Forest Park Heights District, the city's largest historic district which includes the homes of Dr. Seuss and Thornton Burgess

You'll get to stop and spend time at:

The Springfield Armory, established by George Washington and maker of weapons from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War. Now a National Park, it houses one of the largest collections of fire arms in the country and chronicles innovations which helped spark America's Industrial revolution.

McKnight Historic District, the largest wood-frame, late Victorian neighborhood in New England

Forest Park Heights District, the city's largest historic district

The Naismith Memorial Basket Hall of Fame, which celebrates the greatest moments and brightest stars of the game invented in Springfield in 1891. The Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden, honoring local son Theodor Seuss Giesel.



The Springfield Museums, four museums with extensive collections of art, science, and history including Springfield-made Indian Motorcycles, Rolls-Royce, and Duryea, the first American gasoline powered vehicle.

To book this tour, write CITY TOUR in the Special Needs Space on the Tour Registration Form.

HEARING ENHANCEMENT

What to expect at the 64th National Square Dance Convention®
(Along with some tutorial information for interested dancers.)



by Al Rouff, Services Chairman, 64th NSDC®

Hearing enhancement systems literally place the speaker at the ear of the listener and dramatically reduce background noise. This background noise may include sideline talking, motor or fan noise (e.g. heating or air conditioning unit), floor noise (made by the dancers' feet moving), etc. Hearing loss is invisible and can occur at any age. However, it is more prevalent as age increases. More than 50% of people over age 50 have a hearing loss significant enough to impact their understanding of speech, especially in a background of noise. As the average age of square dancers increases, so does the impact of hearing loss on the activity. Look at the demographics of our group. There are many older dancers, and chances are high that a hearing enhancement system would be beneficial almost anywhere we go to dance. The use of a hearing enhancement system has extended the enjoyment of many people who dance in our square dance activity.

What is ADA? ADA stands for the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Americans with Disabilities Act gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to other individuals on the basis of race, sex, national origin, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. It states that one must furnish auxiliary aids when necessary to ensure effective communication. For new building construction and alterations, fixed seating assembly areas that accommodate 50 or more people or have audio amplification systems must have a permanently-installed assistive listening system. This must be done without extra charge to the persons using the system. Although the act does not require alterations to existing facilities if undue burden on the owner of the facility can be proven, it does infer that hearing disabled individuals are to be provided with appropriate equipment, whenever possible. It's the law. There is a similar requirement in Canada, at least for new construction.

Why use FM systems? FM (frequency modulated) signals fill a room and will penetrate some walls and partitions. These signals do not require "line of sight" direct contact between the transmitter and the receiver. FM signals generated by hearing enhancement transmitters travel several hundred feet. Infrared systems provide excellent sound quality, but require a direct "line of sight" transmission. This is virtually impossible to achieve with dancers moving around the floor. Induction loop systems also provide good sound quality, but are not portable and could not be moved from hall to hall.

How many FM frequencies are there? There are 10 wide band frequencies (channels) and 77 narrow band frequencies (channels). For square dance venues, the wide band channels are used.

What is the recommended frequency to use? CALLERLAB has recommended the use of a wide band channel at a frequency of 72.9 MHz. By having a standardized frequency, dancers who own receivers can attend a variety of dances and travel outside of their home area without having to change frequencies. Sometimes a different channel frequency must be used because of local radio interference, and sometimes because more than one hall is set up for simultaneous operation on different channels.

What are the components of an FM hearing enhancement system? The system is composed of a transmitter and a receiver. Multiple receivers can be used with one transmitter. The transmitter plugs into the caller's/cuer's amplifier and sends the "Voice Only" signal to the receivers. A battery powered receiver is worn by each dancer using the system.

Are there multiple channel transmitters and receivers? Most manufacturers make multiple channel units. It is important to remember that there are 10 wide band frequencies in the ADA band plan. At a large square dance convention or festival, several different channel frequencies may be in use. At the 64th NSDC®, the primary channel will operate on 72.9 MHz. Other channels must also be used in order to prevent radio interference between adjacent dance halls. Each hall will have a sign posted near the caller/cuer position where the transmitter frequency will be displayed. The dancer should tune to the "active" channel when entering a different dance hall.

Can there be bleed over between adjoining halls if transmitters are being used on the same channel in both halls? Yes. A receiver will pick up the strongest signal. If halls are adjoining (or if they are upstairs/downstairs from each other), it is best to use different frequencies. The 64th NSDC® will have a carefully considered channel plan designed to insure that no radio interference will occur between dance halls.

How does the dancer couple the receiver to his/her ear? Many dancers use a small rubber tip (ear plug) that is inserted into the ear. These tips can be easily cleaned and stay in place while dancing. Other dancers use an ear speaker or a set of headphones. A thin cable runs from the belt-pack receiver to the ear device. The dancer has a volume control on the receiver.

Why do dancers buy their own receivers? Many dancers choose to buy their own receivers. They do this for personal reasons, including ease of travel between groups (they can use it with different clubs on different nights), sanitary reasons, and to assure that a receiver is available whenever they want to use it.

What brand of system should one buy? There are several manufacturers of hearing enhancement systems. An Internet search will easily take you to them. One should compare features, quality, ease of use, durability, price, etc., and make decisions accordingly. A good approach might be to consult with someone who understands the technology and the application. Above all, remember to purchase "ADA Compliant" equipment to insure interoperability with other ADA Compliant systems, no matter where you travel and dance.

Who should buy the system? The answer to this question depends upon your personal needs. Some dancers have purchased complete systems. Some transmitter units have been purchased by clubs and their members buy their own receivers. Some systems are shared by several groups using the same hall.

Can dancers use their personal receivers at places other than square and round dances? Yes. They can use the receiver at any establishment that uses an ADA Compliant system. This includes churches, theaters, auditoriums, museums with walking tours, court rooms, etc.

<p>The 64th NSDC® will provide ADA Compliant Hearing Assist transmitters in every square and round dance hall. Look for the channel frequency posted near the caller/cuer position.</p>
