



THE FIRST 50 YEARS OF RDTA of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

(Highlights Compiled from Minutes of Meetings, Recollections of Charter Members, and Memorabilia)

The Round Dance Teachers Association of Southern California, formed in October 1952, was the first organization of its kind in the United States and at one time the largest. It was the first round dance organization to adopt its own manual of standardized figures, long before any national organization came into being. Its manual was the basis for the Roundalab (RAL) Manual of Standards after that organization was founded in 1977.

RDTA came about because two local teachers released different dances to *The Tennessee Waltz* at the same time. At the time, round dancing was considered part of square dancing, not a separate activity and did not have a separate organization. To resolve the problem, one of the two choreographers, Helen Horne, asked members of the regional square dance association to meet to talk about how to avoid such duplication. A few individuals met in June 1952 at the 3 Sisters Ballroom in Temple City to consider setting up a clearing house for routines and to air square dance complaints about round dancing. After two meetings, seven of them proposed a separate round dance organization to standardize round dance terms, provide a forum to share experiences and to encourage cooperation among teachers.¹ Many local square dance callers objected, saying round dancing should stay a part of square dancing. Who knows if the impasse would have been broken—but about that time, the ballroom dance industry sought legislation to require teachers of round dance and square dance to be licensed by the state. The two groups put aside their differences to hire an attorney to lobby against the legislation. By the time the ballroom threat went away, RDTA was decisively established.

Founding members: Merle & Joy Cramlet, Med McMasters (the first president), Gerald & Iola Reeser, Jack Hoheisal, and Helen Horne, all of whom were square dance callers or involved with square dancing and round dancing.

Charter members (anyone who joined during the first year, 1953): Gordon & Betty Moss, Clarke Kugler, Carolyn Mitchell, Charles Quirnbach, Martin Treib (who had taught ballroom dancing in Europe), Ivan Louder, Frank & Carolyn Hamilton, Johnny Velotta, Lefty Davis, Jim Carter, and Ralph Maxheimer, the caller who had written the second version of *Tennessee Waltz*.

RDTA members were in the forefront of moving round dancing from its folk dance roots to where it is today. Many of them traveled extensively to teach and assisted in the formation of today's two international round dance organizations (25 years after the formation of RDTA).²

Some of the most illustrious leaders on the national level have contributed to RDTA's history as participating members: Gordon & Betty Moss, the first recipients of the URDC (now ICBDA) Golden

¹ The original problem of two dances being written to one song, one of the founders would say years later, has never been resolved. As of today, it still has not been resolved. Gordon Moss attempted to solve the problem in 1957, proposing that RDTA allow 60 days for additional choreography to be submitted after receiving the first, then dance them all together and choose and endorse the one with the most merit. His proposal was not adopted. He noted that the initial Tennessee Waltz issue was unnecessary because the two dances were written to distinguishable orchestrations: One routine would have been too slow to the Decca recording and the other would have been a rat race to the MacGregor recording. But where would we be if that had not happened?

² Eddie & Audrey Palmquist held a meeting at their home in 1976 to discuss forming URDC, and they were appointed to the first RAL Standardization Committee at the first RAL convention in 1977. Harmon & Betty Jorritsma chaired the committee that developed the present Phase System in use by RAL.

Torch Award for contributions to round dancing; Eddie & Audrey Palmquist, the third recipients of the same award and who to date hold the record for most choreography on the ICBDA Hall of Fame list, and Charlie & Nina Ward, who received the Golden Torch the year after the Palmquists. Sam & Jody Shawver, Ken & Irene Slater, Russ & Barbara Casey, Pete & Carmel Murbach, the Mosses and the Wards also have dances honored on the ICBDA Hall of Fame list.

THE FOLLOWING CHART RECORDS THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST 50 YEARS OF RDTA.

June 29, 1952	Meeting of members of the Callers Pow Wow: Discussion of the problems of round dancing. complaints: Too many dances; the dances are too complicated; if they can be taught in five minutes, they can be done during square dances.
October 1952	1 st official meeting of RDTA
Nov. 14, 1952	<u>1st Constitution</u> was adopted: Article II <u>Members</u> "Membership shall be open to either sex, over 21 years of age; those who were conducting a round dance class as of June 1, 1952; those square dance callers who teach round dances in their classes and include them in the program and have been approved and recommended by the membership committee." <u>1st Bylaws</u> were adopted, creating the Standardization Committee, which was to standardize step terms, classify dances by "popular," "easy," "club" or "exhibition" level, and standardize any dance routine within Southern California that has two or more variations.
1952 -- April 1955	Minutes of these early meetings are missing, but some summaries were provided by members who were there. Gordon Moss wrote "We Take A Look At Ourselves," an eight-page report summarizing the first year of the organization and surveying the growth of round dancing in general. The single greatest accomplishment of the organization was getting organized, giving the "first official recognition that round dancing is a separate activity (from square dancing)," he said. The report was published in the American Squares Magazine.
1952	<u>December:</u> One dance is to be recommended each month for use by square dance groups.
1953	<u>January:</u> Round of the Month (ROM) program established; <i>Side by Side</i> , two-step by Bert & Julie Passarello of Long Beach, picked as the first ROM. Work began immediately on developing a technique manual. <u>February:</u> RDTA to focus on workshops, active participation said to be required.. <u>April:</u> New material is to be danced, then a vote taken to see which is taught as ROM. <u>June:</u> A round dance workshop for 75 dancers was organized by RDTA. <u>July:</u> The ROM is to be rewritten with standardized cues. <u>Constitution amended:</u> A Member must be currently teaching and show the ability to have held a group of dancers together for at least three months.
1954	Membership: 61 members <u>November:</u> 1 st RDTA dance (fun level round-up), 425 attended, \$217 profit
1955	<u>February:</u> "Any dance we see fit" is eligible for ROM, not just square dance level. <u>April:</u> Discussion regarding Prop. A and B on the Los Angeles Co. ballot, to raise \$40 million for parks, including facilities for dancing. Members encouraged to vote in favor. <u>June:</u> MacGregor Records objects to mass copying of its cue sheets, but says its OK to copy in limited numbers for clinics/workshops. (Round dance labels in those days controlled who could write to their music and held the copyrights on cue sheets.) <u>June:</u> Non-attendance at meetings defeats the purpose of RDTA's founding, the nature of the monthly meetings requires attendance and participation. Failing to be at 3 consecutive meetings is grounds to drop one from membership, unless excused.

1956	<p>RDTA established an exhibition team to perform at festivals.</p> <p><u>June:</u> Higher level “round dance” ROM added, to alternate with “square dance” ROM beginning in 1957.</p> <p><u>August:</u> Majority of the votes cast is required to adopt a ROM, not just highest number of votes cast.</p> <p><u>December:</u> New material now must be taught before being eligible for ROM.</p>
1957	<p>Average fee for classes in this area was \$2 per couple.</p> <p>Eddie & Helen Palmquist were guests (but they don’t join until 1960).</p> <p><u>December:</u> ROM must receive at least 51% of the vote of the members present (recognizing non-voting members as “no” votes).</p>
1959	<p><u>May:</u> Proposal defeated to change the Constitution to redefine round dancing as limited to waltz, two step, polka and schottische.</p> <p>ROM categories changed to “easy” and “intermediate” from “round dance level” and “square dance level.”</p>
1960	<p><u>May:</u> New meeting format adopted—show and teach ROMs, to be completed by 5:30 p.m.; business meeting to follow until 6 p.m.</p> <p><u>June:</u> RDTA Standards Manual was introduced. The Standards Committee is to rewrite cue sheets for ROM new material to conform to that manual.</p> <p><u>July:</u> Duties of Standards Committee defined.</p>
1961	<p><u>April:</u> New policy: No dance written to music already used by an existing round dance can be shown for ROM.</p> <p><u>August:</u> Attempt to add “advanced” as a third category for ROM is defeated (only square dance and round dance levels to be selected).</p>
1962	<p><u>August:</u> Dues increased to \$24 a year, to include two tickets to annual dances.</p> <p><u>December:</u> Gordon & Betty Moss and Charlie & Nina Ward retire.</p>
1963	<p><u>May:</u> <u>Constitution amended:</u> In determining membership qualifications, one must teach a class consisting of at least five couples paying at the prevailing rate, who meet at least twice a month for round dance instruction.</p>
1964	<p><u>February:</u> RDTA to form exhibition group of teachers to perform at NSDC in July. (No record of what happened to the original group.)</p> <p>Note in minutes: “Happy Eddie is to continue teaching” after Helen dies.</p> <p><u>December:</u> Five minutes allotted at each meeting to discuss one figure to go into the manual.</p>
1965	<p><u>May:</u> Homer (Silky) Griffith joined as teacher member. Gordon Moss continued to come to meetings as a guest.</p> <p><u>July:</u> RDTA sponsored 2-day workshop for teachers with national leader Ben Highburger from Texas.</p> <p><u>October:</u> Code of Ethics was proposed (adopted in 1966).</p> <p><u>December:</u> <u>Constitution amended:</u> New members will come in as probationary members, have 6 months to meet full teacher requirements; if not, they have to wait 6 months and reapply, with suggestion they take a round dance class with a reputable teacher.</p>
1966	<p><u>July:</u> Jorritsmas join, Audrey Van Sickle is a guest.</p> <p><u>October:</u> 1st Classics List adopted.³ 14 dances picked, one to be taught each month when no advanced ROM is picked. <i>Elaine</i>, called “challenge level,” is taught as first advanced ROM. 1st intermediate round-up is scheduled.</p> <p><u>December:</u> Time limits set on ROM teaches: 15 min. for easy, 25 min. for intermediate and 45 min. for advanced.</p>

³ The first Classics: Neopolitan Waltz, Think, Hot Lips, Kiss Waltz, Siesta In Seville, Charmaine, Blue Danube, Kon Tiki, Lady of Spain, Lazy Quick Step, Naughty But Nice, Rhumba Rehan, Spanish Town, and Fascination Waltz. Four of the 14 were written by Gordon Moss.

1967	<u>February:</u> “No” votes allowed for ROM; to pass a dance must get 51% of votes cast.
1968	Peweys named to head RDTA exhibition team. <u>February:</u> Dances up to one year old can be considered for ROM. <u>May:</u> Sasseens join. <u>December:</u> Gordon Moss marries Betty.
1969	New Material chair created to handle dances for the workshop. Chick Stone (Let’s Dance, Boo Hoo) to head exhibition team (but not enough sign up for it) <u>June:</u> Decision to start adding to the Classics List. Advanced ROMs added. Art & Daisy Daniels guests.
1970	<u>Constitution amended:</u> New teachers must have had a class for at least three months with at least five paying couples (at the prevailing rate) to qualify for membership. <u>July:</u> Stiers join, Art & Daisy Daniels join in August. <u>August:</u> RDTA cue sheet format is adopted. <u>October:</u> Moved meeting from Compton Masonic Lodge (building sold) to UAW Hall, Bell. <u>November:</u> No more “no” votes allowed in selecting ROM.
1971	Favorite Dance Award winners: Two-step--Roses for Elizabeth (Bliss), Waltz—Answer Me (Palmquist), Latin—LaCumparsita (Palmquist) <u>January:</u> 1 st meeting at La Palma Park, rent is \$40 a month <u>April:</u> Teachers presenting ROM material are responsible for correctness of cue sheets. <u>May:</u> RDTA’s first president, Med McMasters died <u>November:</u> 1 st advanced level dance sponsored by RDTA, called the Rose Ball. Membership opened to square dance callers who also teach round dance, if approved by the membership committee. <u>October:</u> Sechrists accepted as probationary members <u>December:</u> \$10 fee to be charged with membership application to defray cost of verifying qualifications of prospective members. (Members were assigned to make surprise visits to classes of prospective members.)
1972	<u>March:</u> Standards Committee to present a 10-minute clinic at the start of each meeting to teach new figures to go into the syllabus. <u>July:</u> Funds authorized to buy two Alex Moore international style ballroom books as reference for Standards Committee. <u>December:</u> Shawvers approved as members.
1973	<u>February:</u> Complaints voiced that not all teachers are revising cue sheets to conform to the RDTA syllabus before presenting new material. <u>May:</u> Classic List to be updated (new material added) every two years. Certificates to be mailed to choreographers of dances chosen as ROM. <u>July:</u> No dance can be considered for ROM unless the music is guaranteed available. (Issue with <i>Pixie Tango</i> , which was not available because of a strike at Telemark Records.)
1974	<u>March:</u> Decision to develop ways to provide financial assistance to members in need. One idea adopted is to dedicate one of the party dance events to an individual or couple and allocate the proceeds to them. Decision to start picking <u>Featured Classics</u> , first two were called Commemorative Classics to honor deceased members: <i>Wonderful Rain</i> by Stottlers and <i>Dance, Dance, Dance</i> by Kuglers. <u>December:</u> 1 st all-level Holiday Ball held (and put on continuously to the present).
1975	<u>October:</u> Special exam developed for Marge Rossiter, to become teacher member in place of her husband after he died, proceeds of Holiday Ball go to her. <u>December:</u> Jim Spence joins. Unexcused absences that can mean expulsion changed from three consecutive meetings to three absences in a year.

1976	<p><u>January:</u> A teacher exhibition group is created (again) to demo at all RDTA events and the national SD convention (which would be in Anaheim that year). Advanced ROM only needs majority of votes cast (not majority of voting members present).</p> <p><u>March:</u> Palmquist reports that advanced teachers want to have the advanced ROM alternate between “advanced” and “challenge” levels (tabled).</p> <p><u>April:</u> Suggestion adopted to divide intermediates into hi intermediate and easy intermediate ROM. Darlene Miller becomes member with Jerry as partner (Jerry joins separately in 1998). Motion passed to adopt \$3 per couple as the prevailing rate for classes in this area (for membership definition). The amount of dues to be in Rules & Procedures rather than Constitution (easier to change).</p> <p><u>August:</u> Survey authorized to decide if there should be 2, 3 or 4 ROMs selected. Jorritsmas announce they will be teaching round dancing at Golden West College as an accredited college course.</p> <p><u>September:</u> Palmquist suggests eliminating executive committee because all decisions are voted on again by the membership (defeated). Complaint voiced that advanced teachers only get to vote for advanced material.</p> <p><u>October:</u> Motion to allow all members to vote in all categories for ROM (defeated).</p> <p><u>November:</u> \$50 donated to Rose Parade float. Discussion about asking NSDC to hold a national round dance convention prior to the square dance convention. (No URDC yet.)</p> <p><u>December:</u> Issue of dancers audio taping in class; motion to forbid taping at round dance classes (defeated). Suggest teachers have a written agreement with dancers to use tapes for their individual use, not to play at another function. (3 variations of a form presented at January 1977 meeting.)</p>
1977	<p><u>January:</u> 39 regular members, two probationary members, 5 honorary members⁴ present.</p> <p><u>April:</u> Anyone who nominates a Featured Classic must update the cue sheet to present standards.</p> <p><u>August:</u> Member Roy Stier reports on formation of URDC, of which he is chairman.</p>
1978	<p><u>Constitution amended:</u> One vote allowed per paid membership (single or couple). A couple doesn’t have to be married.</p> <p><u>February:</u> Separate smoking section established at hall for each meeting.</p> <p><u>April:</u> Each teacher is encouraged to show at least one dance a year.</p> <p><u>June:</u> Cuers at RDTA dances are encouraged to cue each dance through at least once, to draw more attendance. (Most dances were uncued in the early days.)</p> <p><u>July:</u> RDTA’s exhibition team to perform at the Holiday Ball, Pewseys to be the coaches.</p> <p><u>December:</u> Appreciation Dance for the Leons raises \$1,265 for them, 288 dancers attend.</p>
1979	<p><u>Constitution amended:</u> Members must have been teaching for one year when they apply and show they have held a group together for at least six months.</p> <p><u>May:</u> Leo & Marion Crosby join as teachers.</p> <p><u>October:</u> Qualifying dance for probationary members to be done at the highest level they will teach.</p> <p><u>December:</u> Complaint about international figures and dances being too hard.</p>
1980	<p><u>April:</u> Procedure modified for adopting the ROMs: Show all dances, then vote to pick the top 2 in each category, which will then be taught. Vote again after the teach to pick which will be ROM.</p>

⁴ Honorary membership has been granted to individuals for their contribution to round dancing. This non-voting membership was first granted to Ethelwyn Kugler, Olive Luce, Thelma Woodhan, Betty Wunning and Bill Zollar, all early presidents or members; then Vonnie Stotler (1974), Louie & Lela Leon (1979), Gordon & Betty Moss (1984), Cookie Gibson (1984), Jody Shawver, Frank & Evelyn Hall (1988), and Art Daniels Sr. (1993).

	<p><u>June:</u> A Classic is defined as a dance at least 5 years old, in any category, still being danced by some RDTA members.</p> <p><u>August:</u> Special meeting of advanced teachers to discuss continuing criticism of amount of time spent on this category; advanced level is too hard; proposal to replace advanced with a hi intermediate category (tabled). Carl Belsky joins as teacher member.</p> <p><u>December:</u> <i>Summer Mood</i> by the Leons picked as the third Commemorative Classic (he had died in September).</p>
1981	<p>Keep the two round-ups each year, plus the Holiday Ball.</p> <p><u>August:</u> Classics List to be updated annually.</p> <p>1/3 of proceeds from Holiday Ball to be given as token of appreciation to a worthy member for past loyalties. \$812 goes to Jodi Shawver from 1980 Holiday Ball (Sam Shawver died in December 1980).</p> <p><u>December:</u> Mickey & Clara Marshall join as teacher members.</p>
1982	<p><u>January:</u> ROMs picked at each meeting to be ROM for that month, not the next month. Change results in two sets of ROMs named for this month.</p> <p><u>April:</u> Cue sheet for ROM <i>New York, New York</i> not correct, choreographer refuses to change it, so the dance is withdrawn from ROM.</p> <p>Fishtail added as easy level figure to our syllabus.</p> <p><u>May:</u> Dues raised to \$60 because rent on La Palma Park increases from \$60 to \$105 per meeting.</p> <p><u>October:</u> For the 30th anniversary, each member was encouraged to read and heed the Gordon Moss suggestions when considering future policy (as written in the summary of our first year of existence).⁵</p> <p><u>November:</u> Featured Classic to be picked quarterly (done through 2000).</p>
1983	<p><u>January:</u> Need for an ethics committee because of violations of our Code of Ethics being reported (undercutting on fees, unauthorized copying of our syllabus, using tapes at dances rather than hiring a round dance cuer). The job is combined with the examining board. Palmquist proposed that advanced teachers meet before the regular meeting, extra hall rent (\$18 an hour) to be paid by those who participate (defeated). 44 members on our roster.</p> <p><u>February:</u> Discussion re: putting the advanced part of workshop first, from 10 a.m. to noon, for teachers who want to move into advanced (proposed by Barito, defeated)</p> <p><u>April:</u> Decision to apply to IRS for non-profit status..</p>
1984	<p><u>May:</u> Gordon & Betty Moss were named the 1st RDTA Round Dance Award winners.⁶ Rardins were accepted as teaching members. (Pat would become RAL executive secretary in 1995 and move RAL offices to Orange County.)</p> <p><u>July:</u> Gordon & Betty Moss and Cookie Gibson were made honorary members.</p>

⁵ In his "We Take A Look At Ourselves," Moss described round dancing "as thoroughly American as ballroom dancing. But unlike ballroom dancing where couples remain isolated units, competing with each other as strangers for space within which to remain isolated, a round dance emphasizes group unity." Round dancing, simply, satisfies a human need to belong, "an individual pleasure...heightened by being included in the group rather than being rejected by it," he concluded. "As an Association, it would be well to remember that the only authority we can ever possess is that arising from the respect and good will of the rank and file of dancers—a voluntary gift by them, rewarding our tolerance and helpfulness, which may be withdrawn at any time." He went on with specific suggestions to consider when making policies in the future.

⁶ The Round Dance Award was created to honor a teacher, choreographer or layperson whose loving dedication to round dancing over a period of time has promoted the activity. The award has been presented to Gordon & Betty Moss (1984), Merle Cramelt (1986), Opal Cohen (1986), Gerry Boswell Cramlet (1987), Jess & May Sasseen (1988), Eddie & Audrey Palmquist (1992), Harmon & Betty Jorritsma (1997), Jerry & Darlene Miller (2006), and Ron & Nancy Yanke (2006).

	<p><u>August:</u> Motion defeated to drop Palmquists and Pewseys as members due to too many absences (Palmquists were traveling extensively).</p> <p><u>November:</u> John Kline (Michaelson) and Vivian Walter accepted as members. Caseys came as guests (they would join immediately).</p>
1985	<p>Member definition was revised to allow members who teach only at square dances, defined as: "Any person teaching for 10 years, teaching round dances in their entirety at square dances."</p> <p><u>April:</u> Official copyright application for our manual was filed and granted by US Copyright Office.</p> <p><u>May:</u> Major concern over incorporation of international style figures, echoing sentiments being expressed nationally at Roundalab. Comments included in minutes.⁷</p> <p><u>August:</u> Voting for Easy and Intermediate ROM limited to those who have taught 7 of the past 12 selected; voting on Advanced limited to those who have taught 4 of the past 6.</p> <p><u>October:</u> Norm Pewsey died after fall off a ladder. Cramlet recognized as the only founding member left. Reminder that ROM cue sheets must conform to RDTA syllabus.</p> <p><u>December:</u> Joint meeting of old and new boards, each outgoing officer to complete and turn over a "how-to" book to the person assuming that position.</p>
1986	<p><u>May:</u> Some of our historical material was sent to the Lloyd Shaw Foundation for historical preservation (now at the University of Denver).</p> <p>RDTA did survey of dancers to determine their favorite rhythms: Waltz most popular, followed (in order) by two step, foxtrot, tango, cha, quick step, swing, rumba and, last, samba. Dancers comments: they want standardized cues and don't want higher level figures brought into lower level dances.</p> <p><u>June:</u> Board supported paying more attention to beginners. Table established at meetings for flyers for members' beginner classes.</p> <p><u>July:</u> ASCAP began crackdown on playing of music without a license. One member is required to pay \$300 fine.</p> <p><u>October:</u> Board voted to not include records with ASCAP labels on RDTA dance programs (but keep them available if the dances are requested). Mickey Marshall resigns due to conflicts.</p> <p><u>November:</u> Phase IV ROM to be picked in odd months, phase III in even months. \$249 made off sales of our syllabus.</p> <p><u>December:</u> RAL adopted its current phase system; RDTA agreed to try it for one year. Darlene Miller elected treasurer, a post she will hold until 2009.</p>
1987	<p><u>February:</u> Fortuosity and I Love The Night Life tied for addition to Classic List.</p> <p><u>March:</u> Ron & Nancy Yanke applied for membership.</p> <p>If there is a tie vote for ROM after three ballots, there will be no ROM. Standards finds only 1 in 30 cue sheets are correct.</p> <p><u>April:</u> Square dance tip added to spring round-up dance. 105 couples at the dance. Jess & May Sasseen retired.</p> <p>Committee formed to write standardized head cues for the Classics; they complete 10 and disband, too much work to do them all (Jorritsma chaired). (RAL would start standardizing</p>

⁷ "We should not rush the intermediate dancers into international terms. The past two months the intermediate dancers have been subjected to and bombarded with strange sounds like reverse wave, outside spin, natural turn, outside swivel. This month we almost got hip twist and hockey stick," comments by Joyce Doss and Pete Metzger. "The only way to correct the problem is to vote-out the hard dances. We're not in competition with the ballroom exhibitionist," Frank Hall. "Too many new figures takes the fun out of round dancing. We lost dancers when the fishtail was introduced to the easy level. In one class the dancers refused to learn the natural weave. They all yelled 'forget it.' We should listen to the dancers."

	<p>its list of classic dances in 1990.)</p> <p>Teachers presenting dances must state if the music is available. Available is defined as the record will be available to purchase within 30 days after it is shown. (Round dance record labels were committing to provide music in those days.)</p> <p><u>November:</u> Advanced members chastised for not voting on ROM. If they don't like a dance, they had to vote no.</p> <p><u>December:</u> Gordon Moss died, moment of silence for him at the Holiday Ball.</p>
1988	<p><u>January:</u> RAL Phase System adopted permanently.</p> <p><u>February:</u> Bob Malthouse joined as teacher member.</p> <p><u>April:</u> Christmas dances not eligible for ROM.</p> <p><u>May:</u> Jess Sasseen died, Spring Fling is a tribute to him. If a ROM cue sheet is not correct, changes will be put in the minutes.</p> <p><u>June:</u> BMI cracked down on Elaine's in Granada Hills, charged \$500 fine for playing music without a license.</p> <p><u>August:</u> Members reported 9 beginner classes starting.</p> <p><u>September:</u> The ROMs were renamed to match the phase system: square dance level-Phase I, easy-Phase II, easy intermediate-Phase III, intermediate-Phase IV.</p>
1989	<p><u>March:</u> The Round Dance Award is to be given only to "a few very special people." Not able to locate manufacturer of the RDTA pin anymore, arranging for a new die.</p> <p><u>April:</u> Motion: When showing material for ROM, show the basic step. If modified, show how it is different.</p> <p><u>August:</u> Nobuko Shibata attended meeting as a guest of the Palmquists.</p>
1990	<p>Standards Committee stops rewriting cue sheets; presenters are responsible for doing it. RAL Manual adopted as our syllabus.</p> <p><u>March:</u> Membership requirement reaffirmed: Must have a class and paying students to be a voting member.</p> <p><u>June:</u> Joe & Opal Cohen celebrated 50th wedding anniversary; John Kline announced marriage to Becky Sorenson, dance at Elaine's 7/29, everyone invited.</p> <p><u>October:</u> Many teachers were getting warnings from BMI/ASCAP; RAL looking into it. RDTA considers setting up videotape lending library. Doug & Leslie Dodge joined (the first time) as subscriber members.</p> <p><u>December:</u> <u>Constitution amended:</u> Board voted to add a new member category for cuers. Cuers who join will be able to vote only on Easy ROM.</p>
1991	<p><u>January:</u> BMI/ASCAP licenses became available through RAL.</p> <p><u>March:</u> Flap over Saturday Night Live "Dirty Square Dancing" episode. Petitions collected and sent by us and others protesting, NBC pulls the episode.</p> <p><u>April:</u> References to RDTA syllabus were removed from Rules & Procedures, changed to RAL Standards Manual.</p> <p><u>October:</u> The Featured Classic criteria revised: It is to be a classic dance that is not being done regularly but would be if it were recognized and retaught.</p>
1992	<p><u>May:</u> Eddie & Audrey Palmquist received RDTA Round Dance Award, presentation delayed due to LA riots. Complaint that only 22 of 34 members have shown ROM material in past 16 months. Voting limitation added for Cuer members: They can vote for ROM only if they have taught a dance to some group at least once a month every six months. (Attempt to limit those who vote on ROMs to teaching members.)</p> <p><u>July:</u> RDTA added a country western line dance workshop each month.</p>
1993	<p><u>December:</u> Alice Ferris joined as apprentice member. Daisy Daniels is reported to have the flu, the first time she had missed a meeting or round-up in 23 years.</p>
1994	<p><u>March:</u> Started using different color paper to vote for advanced ROM to tell them from other</p>

	<p>levels. (Different voting procedure adopted for advanced.)</p> <p><u>April:</u> Slaters joined as teacher members. Faudrees resigned..</p> <p><u>May:</u> DeFores joined as apprentice members. Standards Committee is instructed to reject any cue sheet for ROM material if it is not corrected.</p> <p><u>June:</u> Cindy Mower joined as teacher member. Celebration for Silky's 80th birthday. Flowers sent to Eddie Palmquist, in the hospital with pneumonia.</p>
1995	<p><u>January:</u> Featured Classic to be chosen in February, June, October. Ed Gaines joins as cuer member (later changes to teacher member).</p>
1996	<p><u>February:</u> Bill Bingham approved as apprentice member.</p> <p><u>March:</u> Alice Ferris approved as teacher member. Joyce Doss Lane retired. Eddie & Audrey retired.</p> <p><u>April:</u> Frank Hamilton died.</p> <p><u>June:</u> Pete Murbach died, Spring Fling dedicated to him.</p> <p><u>August:</u> Dave Draper approved as apprentice member.</p>
1997	<p><u>February:</u> Judy Keller approved as apprentice member.</p> <p>November: Reminder, don't vote on ROM unless you have a class and don't vote on any level you don't teach.</p>
1998	<p><u>October:</u> Discontinued Easy level Round-Up (was held every September).</p> <p><u>November:</u> Featured Classic can come from RDTA Classic List, RAL or URDC classic lists.</p> <p><u>December:</u> Silky retired from teaching (only temporarily, it turns out).</p>
1999	<p><u>January:</u> Eddie Palmquist died, the spring dance is dedicated to him.</p> <p><u>June:</u> Official policy—meetings to be dark on Mother's Day, except when Easter falls on meeting day, then dark on Easter and not Mother's Day.</p>
2000	<p>Merle Cramlet turns 90, still comes to meetings.</p> <p><u>October:</u> Art Daniels Sr. died in September.</p>
2001	<p><u>June:</u> Mel Branham joined as apprentice member.</p> <p><u>July:</u> Carol Brown started developing an RDTA web page.</p> <p><u>October:</u> RAL manual again adopted as our official standards manual.</p> <p><u>December:</u> Ed Gaines resigned.</p>
2002	<p><u>January:</u> MDs and CDs became new options for music; clinic held on use of the different media.</p> <p><u>August:</u> Planning begun for hosting a RAL Mini-Lab here (finally held in 2004, 26 teachers, three new cuers and a square dance caller attended). The Millers and the Silvias organized it.</p> <p><u>September:</u> New mission statement (written by Bill Harris) was adopted: "To elevate and promote professionalism, ethics, ideals and teaching the art of round dancing in a universal standardized program, fostering harmony, respect, integrity and good-will among its participants."</p> <p><u>October:</u> The last of our founding members, Merle Cramlet, died.</p>

More from Gordon Moss' "We Take A Look At Ourselves:"

Our early leaders started out with an open mind and no set policy. "We only had faith in the essential value of what we were doing and a determination to get along, somehow, with the others we found working beside us."

He found square dancing and round dancing to be "divergent interests confined within an activity geared to handle only one. When interest in round dancing began to grow, trouble was inevitable." As round dances became more complex, and more difficult for square dance instructors to teach, round dances started being excluded from programs.

Round dance clubs came into being “but new problems immediately arose as the dancers discovered that any given routine was likely to have as many variations as there were instructors,” he reported. The formation of RDTA began to bring standardization to the dances. But he said, “We let round dancing go where it wanted to go, and made ourselves merely a corps of traffic officers,” and that hands-off attitude was responsible for the harmony that brought all levels of teachers together.

Round dancing, he concluded, is an evolving social phenomenon—“a unique and peculiarly attractive activity into which people are pouring their inventive genius for having fun together. Its future is assured and without visible limitation so long as it continues to hold the opportunity for growth and the promise of new discovery.”