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<http://www.fhrick.net/windhamwhirlers.html>

## Newsletter for September 2005

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Howdy!



Tonight we begin our 41<sup>st</sup> season of dancing at Windham. The jester's cap on the right is in honor of Fred Powers. Until illness forced him to retire, Fred was the MC at our dances - welcoming guests with a smile, a glad hand, a few words of wisdom, and a funny hat for all occasions. Our dances will not be the same without him. He will be missed, but Fred wouldn't want us to sit out a dance on his account - he would say - get off your duffs and get into a square!

### Fred Powers

As most of you know by now, Fred Powers passed away on September 4<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), also known as Lou Gherig's disease. Fred was a much beloved member of the square dance community in Connecticut. Fred and Pat Powers would go dancing 3 or 4 nights a week and knew every caller, cuer and, it seems, every square dancer in Connecticut.

Fred and Pat originally belonged to the Marlborough club and served as that club's presidents for several years. When Marlborough folded, Fred and Pat would have been welcomed into any club in the area but they chose to join Windham. We were proud to have them represent us to the square dancing community wherever they danced. Fred and Pat have served on the Executive Board several times, working Publicity and Special Events. Fred and Pat have also been Windham's CASDC representatives for the past few years; Pat continues on in that role (with Alice Leibowitz).

For past few years Fred served as our host -- greeting dancers, introducing the callers and cuers, and making club announcements during refreshment breaks. He was always ready with a warm welcome, words of wisdom and some old and corny jokes (it was once suggested that we chip in and buy him a book of jokes written after 1912); and, of course, a hat for every occasion.

Fred was 77 when he passed away, but he always seemed to be the youngest member of the club. Fred was always among the first to form a square, always eager to sing along with the caller or greet a new dancer. He was one of those all too rare people who possess an uncommon ability to instill joy into every occasion. One woman I spoke to said "It's so sad; he was a really nice gentleman - and a great swinger." I can't think of any tribute Fred would have appreciated more.

At the funeral there were picture boards of Fred and his family including photos of his days in the navy and childhood years. There were pictures of young "Freddie" with his eight brothers and sisters. Even in those early photos you could see the twinkle in the eyes, just a little hint of mischief, nothing harmful or hurtful, but you could sense that something fun was about to happen.

Fred was diagnosed with ALS last summer. Fred faced his affliction with stoicism and courage that most of us can only envy. He never complained, never grew bitter, there was never a "why me?" at most he would shrug his shoulders and say "Hey, that's how it is, what are you going to do?" Even as he grew frailer, whenever he came to a dance everyone was happy to see him. And everyone around Fred was smiling. You couldn't help but smile around him. To not smile in Fred's presence would almost be like not breathing.

Although he could no longer dance, Fred and Pat still came to dances and Fred continued to serve as our host -- with the same smile and mischievous twinkle in his eyes. Fred and Pat would also occasionally visit other clubs, especially when Windham had a travel night. It is because of Fred and Pat that we were able to have a full square present at the Glastonbury 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary dance on April 9. I recall that as soon as Fred and Pat arrived, a crowd formed around them, all smiling and laughing - - even though it was clear that Fred was getting weaker. I believe it was the last dance he attended before our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dance in May. We are all so grateful that he was able to attend our anniversary dance and be part of the group picture that now is posted on our website.

I can say honestly that everywhere I have traveled in the past year, as soon as anyone saw the Windham badge, the first thing they would say to me was "How is Fred Powers?" In the past weeks I have been asked about Pat and been told to pass along everyone's best wishes to her and their family. When a disease such as ALS strikes someone, it not only affects him, but everyone around him. Pat Powers was always there for Fred. And like Fred, she faced this disease with dignity and courage, always providing him with the strength and support he needed. We know that this is a difficult time for Pat and the entire extended Powers family; they are always in our hearts and prayers.

A few days before Fred died Father Chuck of St. Patrick's Church in East Hampton (Father Chuck led the funeral mass for Fred on September 9 - who else but Fred would have a priest named "Father Chuck") came to visit and deliver last rite sacraments, as per Fred and Pat's request. Fred needed help with breathing and was wearing an oxygen mask. Fred pulled off the mask, smiled and asked "Father Chuck, what do you want me to say to God when I see him?" Whatever messages he may have conveyed for others, there is no doubt as to what Fred asked for himself - when's the next dance and who's calling?

We'll miss you Fred - C U in a square.

### **Square Dancers for Katrina**

We are all aware of the devastation on the Gulf coast in Louisiana and Mississippi; the Square Dance community is chipping in to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Grand Squares, Inc. has established the *Square Dancers for Katrina* fund to raise money to help. The goal is to raise \$1 million and present the check, along with a truckload of supplies by the end of October. All funds collected will go directly to hurricane victims. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.squaredancers4katrina.org/> -- a link to this site has been added to the Windham Whirlers webpage. You can also send contributions directly by sending a check to:

**GSI**

**Dancers for Hurricane Katrina Fund**

**1100 East Morehead Street, Suite 100**

**Charlotte, NC 28204**

CASDC has contributed \$300 to the fund and has recommended that clubs make individual contributions as well.

## **Refreshment Schedule**

The Refreshment assignment schedule has been set and is attached at the end of the newsletter.

## **September is National Square Dancing Month**

September has been declared National Square Dancing Month. So it is your patriotic duty to square dance as much as possible between now and September 30. Also, use the opportunity to promote square dancing whenever and wherever you can. Of course, the best way to do both is to visit other club dances whenever you get the chance; speaking of which...

## **Travel Nights, Dances of Note**

Our first official Travel Night for the season will be at Glastonbury on Saturday, October 8 at the Buttonball School in Glastonbury; caller: Bill Mager, cuer: Laura Knight; MS/Plus Dance.

In addition to the travel night, here are other dances of note in the region (unless otherwise noted, dances begin at 8, with Early Rounds at 7:30):

Saturday, September 17: Manchester: caller: Ed Ruddy, cuer: Liz Becker

Sunday, September 18: Cheshire: caller: Red Bates, cuer: Sandi Everetts (dance begins at 7, no Early Rounds)

Saturday, October 1: Central Valley: caller: Red Bates, cuer: Bev Mackay

Friday, October 14: South Windsor: caller: Todd Felleggy, cuer: Bev Mackay

## **Even Murderers Don't Serve that Long...**

Bernie and Ernie Brisson recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The Brissons are going to Branson, MO for a week of music and fun to continue the celebration. Congrats!

## **Thread City Ramblers Continue World Tour**

The *Thread City Ramblers*, featuring Windham Whirlers Chuck & Noreen Morgan and Larry Boisvert recently performed for a contra dance at Chaplin Grange.

## **Rounds Lessons in September**

Carole Landry will offer Round Dance lessons at the North End Senior Center in East Hartford (just over the South Windsor line) beginning with a free Fun Nite lesson on Thursday, September 22. There will be two one hour sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday evenings - Waltz Phase III from 7-8 and Rumba and Jive Phase III 8-9. Lessons will be \$5 per person for each following week - the \$5 fee includes both

sessions. For more information/directions look up the South Windsor website at <http://fhrick.net/SWSDC/SWSDC.htm> or speak to Fred Rick.

### **CASDC News (by Frank Lussier)**

**Durham Cugin-Chuggers** is sponsoring Square Dance Lessons on Sunday evenings at 6 PM starting Sunday, October 2, at the Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main Street (CT Rt-67) in Middlefield with Ed Ruddy teaching,

**Ledyard Squares** is sponsoring lessons at 7 PM on Thursdays at Ledyard Middle School at Rt-12 & 214 in Gales Ferry with Mike Iavarone calling.

On Friday, September 23, the **Mad Hatters' Charity Ball** will benefit the American Diabetes Association and is CASDC Club of the Month West. The caller is Suptei Rogers and the cuer, Sandy Everetts.

**South Windsor** is sponsoring lessons on Wednesday evenings beginning on September 21 at the East Hartford North End Senior Center, 30 Remington Road, East Hartford, CT. Easy access via I91 to CT RT 291, down Rte. 5 briefly, just over the South Windsor/East Hartford line, turning left onto Remington Rd.

**Surfside 8** is holding a Fun Nites at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, September 20 & 27, at the Westerly Senior Center on State Street in Westerly, R.I.  
Frank L.

### **In October Watch out for the Great Pumpkin!**

Our next dance will be on Friday, October 21 at the Sweeney School. The dance begins at 8 p.m. (7:30 Rounds) and ends at 10:15. Caller: John Hendron; cuer: Liz Becker. Plus level dance. See below for refreshment assignments:

**Hosts:** Alice Leibowitz & Fred Rick **Sandwiches:** Bernie Brisson & Fred Rick

**Veggies:** Alice Leibowitz **Dessert:** Donut Holes & Cider provided by the club

### **In November, Don't be a Turkey, Have Some Pie, then Get up and Dance!**

Our November dance will be on Friday, November 18 at the Sweeney School. The dance begins at 8 p.m. (7:30 Rounds) and ends at 10:15. Caller: Everett Mackin; cuer: Kathy Bryant. Plus level dance. This will be our Pie Night. The club will supply pies for the dance, the Morgans will make the arrangements; the hosts will be Zoe & Jerry Leibowitz.

## Windham Whirlers Refreshment Schedule for 2005-06

Hosts will be responsible for centerpiece, creamer, making the coffee, tea, and setting up the table. Hosts for the next dance will take the box home to bring to the next dance. The Club will take care of all other supplies, including chips & dips.

### Fall 2005

#### September 2005

**Hosts:** Chuck & Noreen

**Sandwiches:** Gloria Lee & Jeanne Starkey

**Veggies:** Dale Dyer

**Dessert:** Noreen

#### October 2005 (Halloween?)

**Hosts:** Fred Rick & Alice Leibowitz

**Sandwiches:** Fred Rick & Bernie Brisson

**Veggies:** Alice Leibowitz

*Donut holes and cider supplied by club*

#### November 2005 (Pie Night)

**Hosts:** Zoe & Jerry Leibowitz-

*Club will purchase pies; Morgans will make arrangements.*

#### December 2005

**Hosts:** Jeanne & Burt Starkey

*Pot Luck: All members bring anything they desire*

### Spring 2006

#### January 2006 (Pizza Night)

**Hosts:** Alice & John Kolega-

*Club will purchase pizzas; Morgans will make arrangements.*

#### February 2006 (Chocolate)

**Hosts:** Elaine & Noreen

**Sandwiches:** Dale Dyer & Fred Rick

**Chocolate desserts:** Elaine & Noreen

**Fruit:** Alice Kolega

#### March 2006 (St. Patrick's)

**Hosts:** Gloria & Bob Lee

**Sandwiches:** Gloria & Alice Leibowitz

**Veggies:** Zoe Leibowitz

#### April 2006

**Hosts:** Alma Derway & Dale Dyer

**Sandwiches:** Alma & Alice Kolega

**Veggies:** Bernie Brisson

#### May 2006 (Ice Cream Night)

**Hosts:** Bernie & Ernie Brisson

#### June 2006 (Hawaiian Night)

**Hosts:** Chuck & Noreen Morgan

**Sandwiches:** Elaine Macke & Zoe Leibowitz

**Fruit:** Jeanne Starkey, Alma Derway & Noreen Morgan