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Circle 8 club celebrates 60 years of square dancing

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Judy Sheets joins other square dancers during a gathering of the Circle 8 Square Dance Club of Waynesboro at the Woodmen of the World building. / Mike Tripp/The News Leader

Rebekah Carter

If you've never done a do-si-do, it's time to discover what all the fun is about at the Circle 8 Square Dance Club of Waynesboro.

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Circle 8 Square Dance Club has been keeping the tradition alive since 1953, offering classes, bi-monthly dances and providing a venue for fun and fellowship.

This Saturday, the club celebrates its 60th anniversary with a special dance at Kate Collins Middle School. The event features square dancing, refreshments, door prizes and more.

At a square dance, four couples (eight dancers) are arranged in a square. With one couple on each side, facing the middle of the

> square, dancers are prompted or cued through a sequence of steps by a caller to the beat of country or bluegrass music. The



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If You Go!

- · what: Circle 8 Square Dancing Club Diamond anniversary dance
- · when: 7-10 p.m. Saturday
- · where: Kate Collins Middle School, 1625 lvy St., Waynesboro
- · cost: \$10 per person
- · more info: www.circle8squaredance.org

Bi-Monthly Dances7-10 p.m. at Woodmen of the World, 4001 White Bridge Road, Waynesboro on the second and fourth Saturday

Oct. 26 Halloween with caller George Jordan Nov. 8 Veteran's salute with caller Greg Jones

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caller is most often on a stage, giving full attention to directing the dancers.

Jim Hayes, club president, says the group has about 40 members and welcomes couples, singles and families.

"Square dancing is a great way for people who share common interests to come together and have a good time," Hayes says.

Hayes says the club takes pride in being wholesome and family-oriented, providing entertainment, exercise and recreation for every age, from the young to not so young.

"Square dancing is a mental and physical challenge, requires teamwork, and keeps you physically and mentally on your toes," Hayes says.

He adds that modern square dancing is no longer your grandfather's dance routine. "There are always new dance steps, changing patterns and new calls to learn, so it's great for any age" he says.

For newcomers, the club offers a series of "learn-by-doing" square dance classes and "plus" square dancing classes for established square dancers who

want to enhance their skills each Tuesday night at Kate Collins Middle School in Waynesboro. The group also offers two monthly dances on the second and fourth

Saturday of each month at Woodmen of the World in Waynesboro, where members and nonmembers can fellowship and dance together.

Circle 8 member June Baum of Afton started square dancing with her husband more than 39 years ago. Now 68, Baum says she still loves square dancing just as much as the day she started.

"I walk at least three miles during a dance, so it's good exercise," Baum says, adding that having to learn the calls keeps her mind bright and is good for her soul.

Baum says she especially enjoys getting dressed up in a traditional crinoline, a rigid skirt that supports a woman's dress into a desired shape. These dresses are usually colorful, frilly and festive, enhancing the visual appeal of the dances.

"It's good clean fun and we're all one big family," Baum says. "You can have a bad day at whatever you do, but once you go to a square dance, you forget about all that. Square dancing is a nice release to help you forget about your worries at home or work," she says.

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