

How did Hot August Nights Begin?

Hot August Nights is in its 6th year, but its predecessor began 20 years prior to Hot August Nights. The 20th Summer Sounds was held August 18 & 19, 2006. Summer Sounds began in 1987 with Ken Bower and Gary Shoemake teaming up to call with Bob and Sally Nolen cuing. This team worked together until 1997 and then the Albuquerque committee continued the event with Bill Haynes, Marlin Hull and Mike Seastrom from 1998 - 2006. The Bond's were added as the cuers in 1997 – many of us round dancers still get a smile on our faces as we dance to the song “Summer Sounds” which was the theme song for that dance.

Wayne Sebrell started the event in 1987 and chaired it until 2003. Nancy Sebrell chaired it in 2004, and then Del and Margaret Kercher chaired it for 2005 – 2006.

The dance changed over the years. We only attended a couple of the Summer Sounds with Ken and Gary and the Nolen's, but we attended all of the following Summer Sounds. One of my favorite memories was of a really fun after party with wild team competitions that we laugh about to this day.

At the last year of Summer Sounds, on Saturday afternoon, Lin and I overheard Bill and Mike talking about this being the last one. Our ears perked up because we hated to see this event end. Six of us went out to dinner that night: Kathi and Lin, Bill and Freddi Franks from Arizona and Ted and I. The future of Summer Sounds came up and Kathi looked at me and said, “We can take it over, if Larada will chair it.” I had heard those words before! Quickly, the group got energized. Freddi came up with the idea of “Hot August Nights” from a Neil Diamond song, and it was a go.

Our first Hot August Nights was in 2007, and we felt it was a smashing success! One feature we added was a lunchtime potluck on Saturday. Many of us were reeling from the end of Festigal and remembered the wonderful times we shared with square dance friends at that potluck, so it was a natural addition and continues to be a highlight of the weekend.

Each Hot August Nights since the first has been unique and enjoyable with lots of fun memories! One practical joke that happened was I got frisked by a sheriff one year because of a silly string battle between Mike Bramlett and me. A constant each year of Hot August Nights has been a party atmosphere!

Our committee has grown from the original 6 with the addition of Mark and Ruth Newton from Arizona, Cecilia Pounds and Wanda Faulkner from Albuquerque and Bill and Joan Oliver from Boise, ID (formerly of Albuquerque). Many Albuquerque dancers over the years have volunteered time to help and many cookies to keep the cookie tradition from Summer Sounds going.

We invite you to join us this year. The 6th annual Hot August Nights is August 17 – 19, 2012 with Mike Seastrom calling – this will be his first time back since the end of Summer Sounds in 2006. Plus is the level of the majority of the week-end. If you are a plus dancer, be sure to join us for the whole weekend or whatever you can – Mike is one of the premier callers in the country!

Ronnie and Bonnie Bond will cue again. Also, if you are a round dancer, come and enjoy the fun teach the Bond's will be doing Saturday morning.

If you cannot commit to the whole weekend, we have special rates per event. Join us for any part because we want you to be a part of this fantastic weekend!