

## Some Shelby Shufflers History

In July 1976, Helena celebrated the Bicentennial with a Fun Day at Joe Tucker Park. All types of entertainment were provided during the day. A Square Dance Exhibition was part of the entertainment, given by Eva and Lane Clayton with caller, Jack Evans. From that exhibition, Eva and Lane were responsible for square dancing in our area.

Several couples were interested in learning to square dance. Lessons began and were held in front of the Helena Fire Hall. A lot of shoes were worn out from dancing on the asphalt. Cold weather ran them inside and lessons were moved to the Helena Elementary School. The first class graduated on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1977.

The geographic location played an important part in selecting a name and badge for the club. Jack Evans, the caller, designed the badge and the club was named, The Shelby Shufflers.

Helena School was to be renovated, so the club moved to Valley Elementary School in Pelham. After the renovation, the club moved back to Helena Elementary School during 1979. New callers, John Paul Bresnan and Barry Echols were hired that year to share calling for the club. By-laws were drawn up for the club in 1979. The club grew in membership and outgrew its financial problems. Two classes were graduated in one year. Barry Echols left the club in 1980. John Paul Bresnan accepted the duties of full time caller and called for the club until 1984.

The Shelby Shufflers was the first recipient of the Fun-D Raiser Award for the 34<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention held in Birmingham in June, 1985.

After John Paul Bresnan left the club, Roy Kirkland became the club's 4<sup>th</sup> caller. He called for the club until May, 1990. Jamie Stewart was voted on May 4, 1990 to be the next caller. He accepted, and called for the club until January, 1992.

The club had several visiting callers over the next few months. The club was very fortunate to have Colen Dyer accept the duties as caller in April, 1992.

Down through the years, many couples have represented the club at special functions. Bud and Jo Henderson were the first Sweetheart Couple for the club. Ronnie and Sue Action represented the club as the first Jubilee Models.

The club had the first "Spring Fling" Dance on April 30, 1993, with Colen Dyer as the caller. It was a great success with 21 squares attending, so the club chose to make it an annual dance.

The Club has grown in the last few years and decided it was time to have a round dance cuer. The club voted to ask Jackie and Juanita Smith. They accepted, and started cuing for the club in October, 1998. Jackie cued rounds until his retirement in 2014. Jim Brown was voted in as the new Round Dance Cuer, until the club folded on March 21, 2014.

The club moved to Valley Elementary School in Pelham, February 2, 2001.

Colen Dyer called for the club until July 19, 2002. It was a sad night for the club members when he announced he would have to give up calling, for he was so well loved by all that knew him. Jerry Handley, graciously accepted to be the club's 7<sup>th</sup> caller. He began calling for the club, August 2, 2002. Jerry called for the club until March 21, 2014 when the club folded.



Valley Elementary School

During December 2016, Shelby Shufflers was revitalized by Mike Jarrett and Peggy Riley. The first dance was scheduled for the evening of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, but was cancelled due to a snow and ice storm making most roads impassable. The FIRST dance was then rescheduled for Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Eight squares of dancers filled the Heardmont Senior Community Center to enjoy Caller Jerry Handley and Cuer Annie Marris.



Heardmont Senior Community Center

The restarted club leadership officers are President Joe Lewellyn, Vice President Annie Marris, Secretary/Treasurer Charlotte Hooten, Birmingham Square Dance Association Representative Mike Jarrett, and Historian Anita Southern.

The club currently dances monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM at Heardmont Senior Community Center (Highway 119), North Shelby County, AL.

## Callers

Jack Evans	1976 - 1979
Barry Echols	1979 - 1980
John Paul Bresnan	1979 - 1984
Roy Kirkland	1984 - 1990
Jamie Stewart	1990 - 1992
Colen Dyer	1992 – 2002
<b>Jerry Handley</b>	2002 – 2014
Inactive	2014 - 2017
<b>Jerry Handley</b>	2017 - Currently

**SHELBY SHUFFLERS REVITALIZED**