

## **Cuer Biography of Judy & Dwayne Barnhill**

**Judy is from Tennessee, and after graduating from Fort Sanders School of Nursing in Knoxville as an RN, worked for over 40 years as a nurse. Dwayne is originally from Fishers, Indiana. After serving 4 years in the US Air Force, and completing his college degree in social work at Anderson University, he moved to Tennessee where he retired in 2001.**

**Several years later, Judy & Dwayne met at a square dance in Knoxville where Bill Fox was calling for the Volunteer Travelers Square Dance Club. After a few dances together, Dwayne asked Judy on their first date to go to a new beginner round dance class led by cuers Bev & Bob Casteel. After learning some of the round dance basics, they were hooked. A couple years later, they decided to get married, and had the ceremony at the square dance hall with square and round dancing as the entertainment.**

**Music has always been a part of their lives as Judy plays piano, organ, and dulcimer while Dwayne is a country and bluegrass music fan. Both had square danced for several years, and learning to round dance was appealing to them as a way to enjoy another dance form with their square dance friends.**

**When Judy retired from nursing, she and Dwayne began traveling to Florida for the Winter months. Of course, it wasn't long before they found themselves involved in 3 or 4 square dance clubs as well as a round dance club. And, instead of**

dancing just once or maybe twice each week in Tennessee, they were now dancing 4 or 5 times each week.

With the opportunity of doing more dancing, particularly the rounds, Judy became interested in learning how to choreograph a dance. She asked cuers, Russ and Wilma Collier of Punta Gorda, to give her some pointers. Soon, Judy and Russ were working on Judy's first choreographed dance, a waltz titled "Satan Can't Hold Me" by Jim Reeves. Dwayne had selected the song as he had always been a big fan of Jim Reeves.

Russ and Wilma took a liking to Judy and suggested that she learn to cue. But, she wasn't particularly interested, and didn't think that the "snowbirds" from up North would be able to interpret her Tennessee accent. She had already discovered that some of them could not understand her when she talked. After much persistence from Russ, she finally agreed to give it a try. She and Russ would sit in the lobby of the square dance hall during dances where he proceeded to coach her on cueing. Then, the the next week, she would come back and cue for him. After a few weeks, Russ must have thought that Judy was ready and unexpectedly to her, called her up to the stage to cue her choreographed song, "Satan Can't Hold Me" for his round dance club. Fortunately, it went well, even with the Tennessee accent.

Judy continued practicing her cueing and Russ would evaluate her progress each week. When she and Dwayne returned to Tennessee for the Summer, Russ and Judy kept it up by way of

**the telephone. Unfortunately, both Russ & Wilma passed away later that Summer (2018), but not before Judy sent them a video of her cueing at a square dance in Knoxville. They were pleased, and Russ' only criticism was that she moved her body and feet too much. She told him it was impossible for her not to move to the music, so he seemed alright with it saying "Well, OK". She is grateful and greatly indebted to Russ and Wilma for their encouragement and willingness to give of their time to help her become a choreographer and cuer. Also, to the dancers who have been so supportive of her venture into the world of cueing.**

**Judy & Dwayne definitely share the hobby of cueing as Dwayne selects the songs, manages the schedule, and assists with classes/workshops. He even cues occasionally. Both enjoy finding a special song to choreograph. They cue for several dance clubs in the Port Charlotte/Ft. Myers area during the Winter months. In the Summer, they are back in Tennessee cueing for several clubs in the Knoxville area as well as state conventions in Tennessee and surrounding states. They are members of the Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association, West Coast Square and Round Dance Association, Round Dance Council of Florida and Roundalab.**