

Important Dates for Tech Squares

- 1964 Don Beck begins calling square dances (November or December).
- 1965 Veronica McClure starts square dancing.
- 1967 Bill Mann, Don Beck, and Judith Kotok start square dancing at MIT as part of the MIT Outing Club. Don recalls, “When Bill [Mann] asked me to come to a square dance session he wanted to start, I said only on one condition: that I got to be the caller.”
- 1967 Veronica McClure moves from Baltimore to Boston December 1, after visiting in October.
- 1968–1969 Don Beck returns to school in upstate New York (Sept 1968). Veronica McClure and Charles Hatvany (an MIT undergraduate) organize the existing square dance group into a separate club of MIT. At the time they asked the outing club if they wanted to have Modern Western Square Dancing as part of their student activity. When they declined, Veronica and Charles formed a new student activity, Tech Squares, and asked Tex Wilson to be its caller, since Don Beck was finding it difficult to continue calling now that he was in school. Don continued to dance with the group. At the time Tex was calling the Outing Club “One Night Stand” (an introductory session for non-dancers, without the expectation that they will continue) but he was also a Modern Western Square Dance caller.
- 1970 Dennis Marsh becomes club caller
- 1971 Dennis teaches the first “Krash Kourse”: an intensive course designed to produce club level dancers in 8 weeks
- 1971 Veronica begins cueing rounds at Tech Squares
- 1974 Karen Murphy becomes club cuer
- 1976 Gene Finlayson becomes club cuer
- 1979 Hope Kaltenthaler becomes club cuer
- 1985 Veronica McClure returns as club cuer
- 1986 Don Beck returns to become club caller
- 1992 25th anniversary dance, October 24

- 1993 Bill Kim Dance-a-thon (November 7). Through the last 80s and early 90s the club was run primarily by a single, dedicated person: Bill Kim. When he was diagnosed with cancer, people from both Tech Squares and the contra dancing community pulled together to run a dance-a-thon to raise money. He passed away a few years later, but his badge was given to the club and (as of 2006) pinned to the club banner in memory of his spirit and dedication to the club.
- 1994 Veronica retires as full-time club cuer (October 25), Doris T-Bow fills in. Veronica cues during the winter, Doris during the summer.
- 1995 Linda Resnick and Clark Baker host the first Tech Squares Weekend at Lake Shore Farm, NH. This becomes an annual event for the club.
- 1997 30th anniversary dance, October 18
- 1998 Don Beck retires. Ted Lizotte becomes club caller (Spring 1998), dancing moves from Tuesday to Thursday nights.
- 2000 In the spring term, the Crash course is first offered as an MIT PhysEd class. One year later, PE credit is officially offered for the class. This brings extra income for the club.
- 2000–2001 Veronica scales back to cueing about once a month, year round. Hope (Kaltenthaler) Belanger returns to cue the other winter dances; Doris continues during the summer.
- 2001–2002 “Year of the amateur cuers.” Doris cues in the summer, and Veronica continues once-a-month; the other dances are cued by club members.
- 2002 Tech Squares moves back from Thursday to Tuesday nights, July 2.
- 2002 Phil Gatchell returns to cue for the club, Sept 17; Veronica continues cueing once a month. (Phil had previously cued for Tech Squares Winter 1997.) In May 2003 Phil is officially named club cuer.
- 2002 35th anniversary dance, November 16
- 2003 Dance ending time moved from 11pm to 10:30pm (July).
- 2005 Clark Baker hosts the first Tech Squares Challenge Weekend at Lake Shore Farm, NH, targeted at solid C1 and C2 dancers.
- 2006 Veronica McClure retires as part-time club cuer. Jessica Wong and Stephen Gildea fill in for her once-a-month spot, with Jessica cueing during dances, and Stephen teaching special rounds classes emphasizing technique.
- 2008 Having outgrown Lake Shore Farm, the annual Tech Squares Weekend is moved to East Hill Farm in Troy, NH.

This timeline is drawn in part from the Tech Squares 25th anniversary dance program, 10/24/1992, written by Veronica McClure and Stephen Gildea. Other information was obtained from Don Beck and Veronica McClure in personal interviews by Clark Baker, and from the “Tech Squares Officer’s Handbook” started in 1990 and contemporaneously updated.