



CHIEF OF CHATTER Claudia Littlefair

Over the past several years, I've collected many articles on how to promote square & round dancing, general information on our dance forms, and our history. I've compiled these articles into an on-line library for use by anyone who wants access to it. The articles are in .pdf format. Send me an email with your request for specific articles, and I will be happy to email them out to you. Attached is the complete "On-Line Resource Library List". I encourage you to read through it – there may be something that could help you when creating your club's promotional material.

In addition, I need your help in making this library grow. Please email me your promotional material – news clippings, brochures, posters, and any other material that has helped your club in the past. By sharing advertising and marketing ideas, we can help each other develop good quality material that may ultimately increase our numbers.

**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and
All the Very Best in the New Year!**

THE REST OF THE STORY - 2015 Convention Committee

The 47th Alberta Convention will be held in Lacombe on the Labour Day weekend, hosted by Central Alberta. In the post-Convention Chatter #2014-FIVE dated October 15, 2014, the 2015 Convention Committee members were introduced. The following are two additional committee members.

TREASURER: Al & Loretta Turton

403-845-3579

taturton@telusplanet.net

We started square dancing in 1977 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan with the Guys & Darlings; a beginner's club. Allan was attending university at the time and we needed one week night out. His brother and his wife were active dancers at the time and convinced us to give it a try and we have been dancing continuously since that time.

We moved to Stettler, Alberta in 1979 and joined the Heartland Hoedowners. Over the years between Stettler, Calgary, and for the last twenty-two years in Rocky Mountain House, we have joined a number of dance clubs. We even took round dance lessons twice.

Over the years we have served, and are still on executive positions with the Central Alberta Dance Association and at the Alberta Federation level.



We have not missed attending a provincial convention since 1979 and have been involved in a good number of them as part of the convention committee. We also have managed to get to a couple of national conventions; Winnipeg and Calgary, and for a number of years we attended the international convention held alternatively amongst Saskatchewan, North & South Dakota, Manitoba and Minnesota.

One of the highlights of our dancing career has been able to participate in the opening ceremonies of the 1988 Winter Olympics as part of the square dance contingent at McMahon Stadium, Calgary.

Our home club is the Rocky Whirlaways, Rocky Mountain House.

PROMOTION PUBLICITY & NEWSLETTER:

Margaret & Ron Faas

780-842-3405 romar@telusplanet.net

Ron & I started dancing in 1969 at WestBrook School north of Cochrane, Alberta. In 1972 we moved to Wainwright and dancing was put on hold to do more with our 3 boys. It was then that hockey in winter and softball in summer took over our lives.

Later in 1993 square dance lessons were started in Edgerton and we graduated in 1994. In 2012 Edgerton folded due to lack of members. Now we are members of Lloydminster and Brownfield in Meridian Zone.

We have been President at the Club and Zone level several times. At the Federation level we are Goodwill Ambassador and Editor of the "SQUARE"ing A "ROUND" Alberta booklet. We have attended all the Conventions since 1997 and have served in many different capacities at seven of them, including General Chair Couple at Wainwright in 2011. We were very proud to accept the Alberta Rose award also in 2011.

We enjoy RV-ing and doing things with our family and friends. Volunteering at the Senior Lodge in Wainwright and our local United Church keeps us busy as well.



The registration form and
Information Sheet for Convention
2015 can be found on the Alberta
Federation website:

<http://www.squaredance.ab.ca>

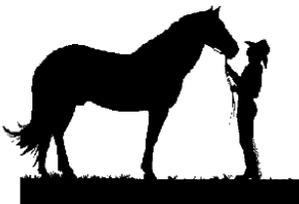
**Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if
Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if
Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!**

- Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

SQUARE DANCING ON HORSE BACK

(Ad in Alberta Morgan Horse Newsletter-Nov/Dec 2013)

"Klondike Square Dance Riders WANTED---Experienced horse persons interested in a unique riding experience --- Square Dancing On Horse Back!!!!"



- By Murray Few

The Klondike Square Dance Riders showcase the intricate moves of square dancing with horses and riders. The club has been around since the early sixties. When we perform for square dancers that dance on

foot, they are amazed that we do the same moves.

The riders have performed at parades, rodeos, Fort Edmonton Park, Calgary Stampede, Fort Saskatchewan, along side Lord Strathcona Horse troupe and RCMP Musical Ride. In 1967 the group performed in Montreal at Expo '67 where one of the unique presentations was an evening performance with the square marked by crossed sparklers in the ground and the riders carrying lit torches. This incidentally made the horses unafraid of fire or fireworks. In 1996 they performed for the Canadian National Square Dance Convention in Edmonton.

The group is composed of 12 riders – 4 carry the Provincial flags and stand at each corner of the square, and 8 riders square dance. The caller is in a wagon pulled by a team of horses. All the riders wear black and gold satin shirts, the men wear black with gold trim chaps and ladies wear black with gold trim chinks (short version of chaps). The men also wear white cowboy hats and white scarf ties. The horses (mostly quarter horses) are any shade of brown and are outfitted with white bridles and reins and white leggings. The ladies' horses have white bows tied in their tails. Each horse has a black and gold serape underneath the saddle pads. For parades on pavement, the horses' hooves are painted gold.

The riders first learn the steps on the ground on foot, so that when they are mounted they can guide the horse through the moves. Sometimes the horse catches on faster than the rider. As a rider, you not only have to command your horse, you also have to dance with your partner as a pair, and look at what other dancers are doing, so your spacing and moves look coordinated. When you have a 1000 lb. horse coming at you at speed, you don't want to be in the way. It's a lot easier to turn yourself around on foot when you're going the wrong way than it is to turn a 1,000 lb horse. Amazingly there has never been a serious accident.

The horses really enjoy the music and the game. The game being the figures and the challenge of getting through all the

moves. Once at a practice, they put in one of the seasoned horses in the square rider-less and the horse made it through ¾'s of the figure before he made a mistake. The horses walk, trot, and lope during different parts of the dance. Some of the moves have been slightly modified to accommodate how horses move.

Some of the favourite figures are Allemande Thar Stars, Wheel and Deal, Cloverleaf and Venus & Mars Stars. Because horses don't back up well, we do a grand prowl instead of a grand square. There are 16 different sequences and 2 parade figures that can be part of any program.

Some of the callers that have been part of this group are Jimmy Lindsay, Ernie Power, Ken Dreger, Ross Richardson, Norm Demeule and myself. I was the first caller who was also a rider. One of the later rider/dancers was also the first rider who was a square dancer and that was Barb Few.

About Murray

Murray Few began his calling career at the early age of 15 when he was hired to call for the Edmonton Swinging Singles. Murray was a member of one of Edmonton's teen square dance clubs and when the resident caller went off to Europe for a year in 1966, he was asked to step in and call for the Club



While Murray and his wife Barb make their home and calling base in Edmonton, they have traveled all over the Province with calling dates, and into British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, the Yukon and North West Territories, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Ohio, Kentucky and Arizona.

Murray is a member of the Edmonton & District Callers and Instructor's Association, as well as being a member of the Alberta Square & Round Dance Instructors' Association and Callerlab. He has been on the staff of numerous caller's clinics and continues to assist new and not so new callers whenever asked.

Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

- Dale Evans Rogers

"There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child."

- Erma Bombeck

The three words fathers fear most on Christmas Day:

'Some assembly required.'

- Anonymous

CHATTER CLOSE-UPS

Editor's Note: Our Dance Community is an interesting mix of people, each with a story to tell. If you have someone you'd like to see featured in this section, email me and I will be happy to contact them.

Connie Morgan

I started square dancing in 1967 at the age of 12 in Rocky Mountain House, with my parents and younger brother. My parents started the year before and realized it would be a great family activity. They were farmers in their early 40's, who had enthusiasm for all forms of dance. In 1970, my youngest brother joined us. We traveled to many clubs, some that are still dancing today and some that have folded many years ago.

Many badges were earned and worn with pride. Some examples are the "Jailbird", that we earned in the jail at Fort Saskatchewan, "Summit Swingers", earned at the top of Whitehorn Mountain in Banff National Park, the beginning of "Wandering Squares", and of course, "Kidnapper" that was earned every year at the campouts. The badge closest to my heart is the original Rocky Mountain House Bighorn Dam badge that states, "I dance best by a dam site." (I was on the design committee.)



At Pentiction Trail-In dance – in line with family, getting badges for Wandering Squares.

My brothers and I filled one or two Century Club books – you ask callers to sign and date the books and when there are 100 signatures, a "Century Club" badge is earned. I still have the last book with signatures by Bill Morgan (our instructor), Jim Hopkins, Keith Dreger, Phil Hansen and a teenage Jerry Jestin, to name a few. As a family, we went to as many dances as we could, far and

wide. We spent many dances at Holiday Ranch (before it had indoor plumbing), a few teen dances in Red Deer and Olds, dances and campouts in Hinton, Golden and Red Deer.

I have continued to square dance my entire life, although there have been years that I have only danced once or twice. I moved to Red Deer in 1983 and joined the Bandaleros until they folded. During the 1980's, I danced Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and Old Time square dancing. My favorite dancing is high energy Mainstream.

Since meeting my life partner, Ron Morgan, at the Toy Dance 2004, I am fulfilling my passion for square dancing as we dance as often as we can, we teach for two clubs and have been known to dance in Calgary in the morning and Edmonton in the evening. Out of all the kinds of dancing I do, only square dancing has given me tears of joy, an extended family, a

worldwide network of friends and an opportunity to praise and worship while dancing. Life cannot get better than that.

Most of my life revolves around square dancing. I have little time to enjoy my other dance interests of line dancing and social dancing. I am a certified fitness leader and have taught line dancing and fitness classes for over 20 years. In my spare time (I work full time as well), I enjoy reading, walking, fitness and nutrition.

Ron and I have been married for 7 years and have hosted the "Celebration Square Dance Weekend" at the Holiday Ranch for 6 years. I have one daughter and son-in-law and two young granddaughters. My life goal is to square dance when I am 112 years old, to dance for 100 years. This 2014/15 season makes 47 years of dancing, so I am not quite halfway there.



At Ron & Connie's Wedding Dance

CHATTER CHATS with GARY WINTER ABOUT HOLIDAY RANCH

Editor's Note: Gary Winter calls frequently at the Holiday Ranch during the summer months. In this interview, Gary shares some of his special memories of the Ranch.

C: Describe the natural setting of the Ranch.

G: The long narrow drive way lined with spruce trees gets you in the mood before you even get to the camping and hall areas. Once you enter the yard it's your own little world of fun and happiness.



C: What's your first memory of the Holiday Ranch?

G: My first time at the Ranch that I recall was an exciting time. I was just hired in place of Randy Doherty - honestly I was

terrified! Talk about big shoes to fill. That was about 12 years ago.

I also attended the Ranch when I was very young, together with my family. We were members of the Wandering Squares – a club that went all over the place for summer campouts. Unfortunately, I don't remember much of the Ranch.

C: Did you meet any people who you are still friends with today?

G: I have met so many people over the years at the Ranch who have become great friends and supporters. It has and continues to be a very large part of my calling career - what I've learned, who I have met and the pure happiness that the Ranch brings to everyone who attends.

C: What significant memories stand out for you?

G: Many good memories but I guess of significance would be that for most of the 10 years of our marriage, Trish and I have celebrated our wedding anniversary at the Ranch.

C: Any out-of-the ordinary special weekends or dances?

G: There are so many - my first weekend of calling with Jerry Jestin, a weekend of calling with Phil Hansen, Barry Sjolín and I, calling for Ron and Connie's anniversary celebrations (Phil, Barry and I also did their wedding dance out by Gull Lake).

C: How has the Ranch impacted you?

G: The impact is really endless, not only with the calling, but the ability to bring my family and how it impacts them, from the boys playing in the kid's pool and on the trampoline to watching them help with all the chores with such enthusiasm.

The influence that Phil and Bev had on our family and our values is beyond words. That influence is still so present today with Bev and her family still running the Ranch. The same goes for special friends, Jack Budd & Verna Kerchinsky and Alex & Ida Murray - such wonderful giving people.

About Gary

GARY WINTER was 8 years old when he started square dancing in Edmonton in 1984. He graduated in the spring of 1986, and in December of that year embarked on his calling career under the direction of Murray and Barb Few. Gary started calling for a teen club in 1988, and has since called for eight different square dance clubs. He is presently an Edmonton club caller for a Mainstream club and his own Plus club. Gary has traveled throughout Western Canada calling weekend specials and festivals, as well as several places in the United States, Germany, Austria and Denmark. Passion



for square dancing, 28 years of experience and musical talent are all reflected in his high-energy, fun-filled dances.

When Gary is not calling square dances, he has a full time job as shop foreman for an Edmonton Dodge Dealership. Together with his wife, Trish, and two boys, Coen and Kaiden, he enjoys the outdoors, camping, downhill skiing, riding quads and snowmobiles, and various water sports.

Last Christmas, Grandpa was feeling his age, and found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult. So he decided to send cheques to everyone instead.

In each card he wrote, "Buy your own present!" and mailed them early.

He enjoyed the usual flurry of family festivities, and it was only after the holiday that he noticed that he had received very few cards in return. Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives and ask what happened. It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer. Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift cheques which he had forgotten to enclose with the cards.

The 4 Stages of Life

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3. You dress up as Santa Claus.
4. You look like Santa Claus.

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

- Norman Vincent Peale

DANCE & RELATED WEBSITES

Edmonton & Area: www.edsda.org/promenader

Red Deer & Area: www.centralalbertadancing.com

Calgary & Area: www.squaredancecalgary.com

Alberta Convention: www.squaredance.ab.ca

Alberta Jamboree Dance Society: www.albertajamboree.com

Past Issues of Convention Chatter & Alberta Chatter:

www.squaredancecalgary.com/conferencenews.html

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM THE NEWSLETTER EMAIL LIST, NOTIFY CLAUDIA AT: horizon2@shawbiz.ca.