#2015-TWO

Alberta



March 26, 2015



CHIEF OF CHATTER Claudia Littlefair

We're quickly coming to the end of another dance year, and the beginning of 'camp-out' season. This issue lists a number of camp-outs that could keep you

dancing every weekend from May to September! Both the Edmonton and Calgary areas offer weekly summer dances to help keep up dance skills, and Calgary has a number of special dances held during its' Stampede Days, July 3 to 12. If you're a new dancer, plan on attending some of these events to hone your new dance skills and keep you in shape for the fall.

The summer months are also a prime time to promote our dance activity to the general public through demos and dances. As you plan yours this summer, you might find the suggestions from the following article helpful.

I look forward to seeing many of you across the square in the next few months!

SUMMER DEMOS

The following excerpts are from an article in the September 2014 issue of *American Square Dance Magazine*, called "CALLERLAB Viewpoints"

– Demonstrating our Dance". It was written by Mike Seastrom, Los Angeles, CA, who is an international caller and recording artist. Mike started dancing in 1960 and calling in 1963. He joined CALLERLAB in 1977 and over the years has served on various committees and in leadership roles, including Chair-



man of the Board. As a practicing dentist, calling is an avocation for Mike, and he says he is fortunate to have such a wonderful and understanding staff and family. His article gives some practical suggestions and ideas on how to make dance demos successful recruiting events.

"Showing our dance to others is a great way to update our image, demonstrate the fun and team spirit of our unique dance form, and interest others in joining our recreation. Yet to really be effective in using demonstrations as a means of bringing new dancers into our activity, it has to be done right and with a plan.

How many times has your group been out to a mall, a fair, a chili cook off or some other event? You had a great time doing a demonstration, but only had limited success encouraging those in the crowd to join your next new dancer program or class. I've spoken with many club and association leaders over the last 25 years who have said they still do some demonstrations, but they hardly ever get new dancers to join their group. Many clubs have just stopped doing them altogether.

The following suggestions are my opinions only. They come from personal experience and by talking to those who consistently succeed in bringing new people into their new dancer programs by doing these demonstrations. I'm not

talking about the times we entertain people with our dance in convalescent hospitals and the like. I'm talking about those events where others can see us and be excited enough to join.

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1. MUSIC: Think about the

age of the group you would like to target and have your caller program the demonstration to what would appeal to that age group. You'll also need to consider that the age of the dancers in the demonstration can't be too far off the group you are targeting. If all your demo dancers are in their 70s and 80s and you are trying to appeal to people in their 40s and 50s, you won't be as successful, even if you use music that they like. Be realistic, but definitely consider the age and music preferences of those you want to attract.

- **2. DRESS:** If all your dancers come to the demonstration wearing their fancy square dance clothes, most of those watching will think you are all professional dancers and that they could never be as good as you are. They will also immediately think that it takes lots of time to be that good and will enjoy watching you, but will not participate when your caller asks all of you to go out and bring in volunteers to dance an easy number. It is my opinion that most of your group should wear clothes that your target audience would have in their own closet at that moment. It's much easier for your targeted group to imagine themselves dancing if they already own the type of clothes that your dancers have on. If a couple of your members absolutely have to wear their traditional clothes, then so be it; but I personally feel it can have a negative effect.
- **3. NON-PARTICIPATING PARTICIPANTS:** I know this sounds a little shady, but having some of your group in "plain clothes" can really help the success of your demonstration. Appoint several of your own people to dress in the same attire that your targeted observes would be wearing at the event. As they mingle on the outskirts of your demonstration, it makes it look like there are people watching already, so others will be more apt to stop too. It also is a great way to get your audience to join you when the caller stops and requests some of the audience to join. Your "non-participating participants" gladly volunteer to join in an easy dance. This helps provide some additional incentive for others to join. Believe me, it works. How far you go with this is up to you, but people are more likely to join your demonstration when they see others jump at the chance.
- **4. NAMES, ADDRESSES, PHONE & EMAIL INFO:** Plan a way to have people sign up for some kind of a contest or raffle.

Print tickets on your computer that has the information on your next class or new dancer event. Have the other part of the ticket be your copy asking for names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. This information gives you the ability to follow up by mail, phone, or email and contact these interested people with further information about the next opportunity to join you. This leads us to the next point.

- **5. HOLD A RAFFLE OR PRIZE GIVE-AWAY:** Decide prior to your demonstration, what might appeal to your target audience. Some examples are free dance lessons, movie tickets, theater tickets, tickets to a sporting event, or a theme park. Use your imagination and the resources of those in your group. Don't miss out on this golden opportunity to provide an incentive to get personal information. Then be sure to follow up and personally contact those that have shown interest. These are important steps and are critical to your success. There may be some rules and regulations in your area dealing with prize giveaways, so check them out first.
- **6. DANCING:** Be sure to have your caller keep the dancing easy and use movements that flow and look good. Your audience needs to picture themselves participating and if you're dancing figures like Relay the Deucey and Spin Chain the Gears, it can be a little intimidating to your observers and diminish the success of your demo. If you get too complicated, many will think it will be too hard for them to learn.
- **7. SMILE AND HAVE FUN:** This point is pretty self-explanatory, but is often left out. Dancers should make eye contact with each other and with some of those in the crowd. Your success will go way up if you're having fun."

CHATTER CLOSE-UP

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



Jim & Doreen Guilloux Rocky Mountain House

We have been square dancing for 15 years with the Rocky Whirlaways Square & Round Dance Club. We joined the dance club because of canoeing. What you say?! Well, we had only been living near Rocky Mountain

House for 2 years (we retired here in 1998) and were looking for a way to get involved in the community when we saw an ad in the paper for Square & Round Dancing with Archie & Ev Griffith as contacts. Jim had paddled with Archie and so we phoned them. Next thing you know we were trying out square & round dancing – just once. Just once and we

were addicted. One of the best things about our Club is the wonderful people in it and with their encouragement we learned to dance mainstream square and round dancing. We've even had the privilege of being President couple for awhile. We love dancing and all the benefits it has for one's health and well-being. Over the years of working in Education in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, we have met some amazing people, had a lot of fun and made many new friends. We were both born and raised in Saskatchewan.

Life beyond square dancing has been a great adventure for us starting with two wonderful children and 3 amazing grandchildren. We've always been an outdoor family so canoeing, camping, climbing, hiking, cross country skiing and winter camping have all played a major role. We've enjoyed passing our skills on to many people over the years through certification courses and outings with friends. We still go on wilderness canoe trips in the summer and cross country ski, back country ski & snowshoe in the winter.

Of course you can't spend every day outside so we have many interests in the field of art and music. Jim loves music and has played most instruments having been a band instructor for many years, but guitar is now the one he plays most. Jim is also a potter and makes wonderful pieces of art from clay. He has several different kilns and makes little things like bowls and huge things like big urns and vases.

Doreen likes writing and has published one book: "Paddling, Portaging and Pageantry" about the 1967 Centennial Canoe Race and is working on one about our 10 years working on First Nations – Jim as school principal and Doreen as teacher. Doreen is also a painter and enjoys working with watercolor, acrylics and alcohol inks.

We also like to travel and have been to China, South Africa and many countries in Europe. For fun we set a goal of getting to all the continents before we're too old and wrecky. Peru is next. Jim has also been climbing in Nepal including several 18-20,000 ft. peaks and has been to Everest Base Camp.



We live on a 14 acre hobby farm just 6 minutes west of Rocky Mountain House where Whiskers, our donkey is boss and reigns over his herd which includes us, Punch the miniature horse, several cats, peacocks, chickens and ducks.

We have our own small lake with trout where we can fish, paddle and swim. We are blessed with many friends including square dancers and hope you'll all come for a visit sometime both to our Club to dance and to our home for a visit.



WHO ARE THEY? 'The Wandering Squares'

by Allan & Norma Serra

The Beginning: It was a beautiful sunny day in 1958 when eight square dancers were sharing companionship complete in relaxation at a campground at the lake resort of Alberta Beach. They were watching their young families play off energy and chatting about the good time they'd had at the dance the night before. They believed in get together outings in the off-dance season so there they were: two dancer couples, Jerry and Lily Dreger plus Jim and Jo Harris with two caller couples, Ivan and Eileen Sheppy plus Frank and Dorothy Dorward. Reluctantly nearing the end of a very satisfying weekend (who knows which one voiced the words) by the time it came to pull up the tent pegs, hitch up the trailers, gather up the youngsters and wend their way homewards, they had agreed that there was only one thing better than square dancing and that was "camping out and square dancing together". As of then The Wandering Squares came into being.

The Past: The Wandering Squares, being province-wide, were pleased to be the vehicle through which the Alberta Square and Round Dance Federation was organized, and from Alberta Federation came the idea of a Canadian Society with its bi-

annual convention (now festival). They are enthusiastic supporters of these events and are honoured with the 'Thank You' privilege of leading the banner parades.

From one long weekend it soon grew to four summer weekends: May, July, August and September. The mid 1960s saw the highest membership with some 500 families. Back then member-

The mid 1960s saw the highest membership with some 500 families.

ship required you to be a square dancer, camp one night, and dance at the 'official' Saturday night dance.

The Present: Today membership is about 100 persons. *The Wandering Squares* is an organization committed to providing a weekend campout for dancers, be they singles or couples, and their families.

Today no membership is needed to attend a dance but to become a member just attend the 'official' Saturday night dance and buy a badge.

The badge shows a dancing couple with the girl as a tent and the boy as a trailer. The dancer's first name is printed in large type so fellow dancers can read your name from across your square. Also available is the badge picture duplicated (without name) as a lapel pin, small car decal, large trailer decal, or sew-on crest.

2015 Schedule: Due to numerous, successful local club campouts plus many other competing events that happen during a typical summer, *The Wandering Squares* now have only two campouts for the 2015 schedule, May **15-18**, Torrington Hall and June 26-28, Wilton Hall (near Calmar).

Guest Callers and Cuers are always welcome! Please bring your own music & co-ordinate with MC. Club-supplied hot dog lunch 12:00 noon Saturday. Potluck supper 5:30pm Saturday. Club-supplied pancake breakfast 8:30 -10:00am Sunday. Coffee pot is always on. All attending please bring cups, dishes and cutlery for meals as well as cups and your pooled—lunch food item for after each dance.

A loosely knit group, organizationally speaking, but closely knit in friendship, *The Wandering Squares* expect members and guests to be considerate dancers and campers, and to take pride in always being welcomed back to a hall or campsite.

The Wandering Squares Club Executive

President	Terry & Joan Boyd	780-679-0152
Vice-Pres.	Al & Carol Moody	403-256-8738
Treasurer:	Allan & Norma Serra	780-466-3564
Secretary:	Dennis & Dorothy Aberle	403-318-5141

About the Writer: Allan & Norma Serra have been members of Wandering Squares since 1987 and Treasurer since 1990. They were married December 8, 1984 and started square dance lessons in January 1985. Ross & Margaret Nicoll, Cloverdale neighbours from across the back lane in Edmonton, drove them to 7pm Friday lessons sponsored by the Lukes &



Lucys, then a mainstream club with caller couple Ernie & Charlotte Power instructing. Their beginner group of two squares was so keen to learn that Ernie continued lessons all summer long in the lounge area of a local curling rink. By July 1986 Allan & Norma were ready to attend their first convention - a combined Canadian National and Alberta Provincial held in Calgary. Over the years they have attended 28 Alberta Provincials and 13 Canadian Nationals.

In 1995 they attended the United States National held in Birmingham, Alabama. Allan & Norma were registration chair couple for the 1996 Canadian National held in Edmonton. To promote the Convention they took along lots of promotional material, a Canada flag, Alberta flag, Convention 96 banner plus a pair of snowshoes displayed with a sign reading "Canadian square dance shoes".

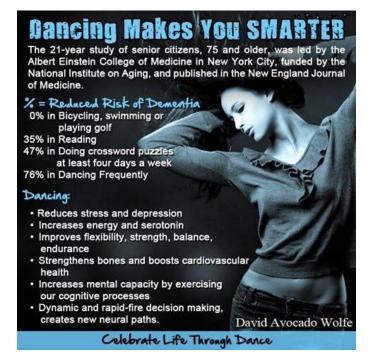
1995 was the first year Lukes & Lucys had no new beginner square dancers so instead Ernie & Charlotte taught round dancing. From 1995 thru 1997 Allan & Norma took Plus then A1 lessons from Jerry Pierce. Jerry is not a morning person so lessons started at 1pm Sundays but even with his sister, Linda, acting as his alarm clock, Jerry was hard pressed to arrive on time.

In 1997 Lukes & Lucys changed format to a Plus club with caller Wayne Russell instructing. Now dancing on the 1st, 3rd and any 5th Thursday of the month at 7pm. Norma & Allan, treasurer since 1994,

will be found collecting dance admission at the entry table at St. Edmonds Catholic Parish Church Hall located at 13120 -116 Street, Edmonton. On the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Thursday they are in the same hall Plus dancing with Murray Few instructing. The fun activities with so many dancer friends keep Allan & Norma square and round dancing hopefully for many years to come.

Observations On Growing Older

- You forget names, but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!
- You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".
- Your kids are becoming you ... and you don't like them ... but your grandchildren are perfect!
- Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless".
- You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet 2 of which you will never wear.
- Going out is good, coming home is better!
- Everybody whispers.
- What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- BUT "old" is good in some things: old songs, old movies, and best of all, old friends!



JAMBOREE ANECDOTES

by Rudy & Susan Neufeld, Jamboree Chair

Everyone who has attended an Alberta Jamboree will remember the excitement in the air when dancing to multiple callers. It was so popular at the first Trail-In dance that it was extended to the last hour of the Saturday and Sunday dances. What a pleasure to have all the callers and all the dancers in one hall, enjoying the banter between the callers and listening to the wonderful harmony of their voices. This atmosphere was repeated at the Trail-Out dances when all the callers hit the stage together again. Most of the dancers never left the floor, just forming new squares and waiting in anticipation for the next tip. It felt like no one wanted the dance to end! I've never seen such a line-up of dancers waiting to shake the callers' hands and congratulate them for a job well done.

At the first two jamborees held in Fort Saskatchewan, vans were employed to shuttle dancers between venues and also their accommodations, allowing them to give their tired feet a rest. Some even used the service for a refreshment stop at the nearby Dairy Queen before heading back for more dancing.

The shuttle service was not required at the 2013 Jamboree in Red Deer, as all the dances were held at the same venue. It was great to pop into all the dance halls to participate or just to watch a bit and enjoy the music. It gave those square dancers who do not round dance the opportunity to watch the graceful flow of round dancing and see the patience and expertise of round dance cuers, Ron and Donna Baba.

With all the energy on the dance floor, the callers also were swept up into the electric atmosphere. People are still chuckling over Murray Few's rendition of one his singers, when he just began to sing the lyrics without adding any dance moves. The dancing stopped, the other callers all stood and watched him and everyone applauded him when he finally realized he was on a stage and not around a campfire!

Youth on the calling stage was one of the features at the Red Deer Jamboree, with the calling provided by Dustin McGifford who is still in his early twenties. He was able to fit in well with all the experience on the stage and by the end of the weekend was joining in the joking and bantering among the group. And then there was the youngest of them all, Kaiden Winter, who was barely knee-high to a grasshopper. Joining his dad, Gary, in a singing call, he wowed the crowd and received the biggest ovation of them all. Then, when he noticed that the other callers were receiving pay for their services, he just stood there with anticipation on his face. What a grin when President Rudy Neufeld reached into his pocket and rewarded him with a handful of coins. First paid gig for him! Later he proudly told his mom that he was a paid caller and could call anywhere now!

What a wrap-up we had for the 2013 Jamboree! Dancers were waiting patiently for the hall to be opened. A phone call revealed that the caretaker had written down the incorrect starting time and was going to be late. This did not daunt Gary Winter, who quickly set up his equipment on the back of a pickup and thus the first parking lot dance goes down in Jamboree history. And when the hall was opened and the dance resumed the same enthusiasm spread across the floor. These are just a few memories from good times past. We are looking forward to again meeting old friends, making new ones and experiencing another memorable time at Jamboree 2015.

Convention 2015 Information Sheet #3

ASRDF Convention to be held at Lacombe Memorial Centre 5214-50 Ave. Lacombe Alberta September 5, 6, 7, 2015



- 1. Central Alberta Square and Round Association will be hosting the Trail In Dance Friday September 4th, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. **Cost for everyone is \$5.00 at the door.**
- 2. Banner Parade starts the Convention Saturday morning at 8:45 a.m. Line up at 8:25 a.m.
- 3. Saturday night dance theme is **Club Colours.**
- 4. **Starlite Fashions** will be at the Convention.
- 5. **Lots of camping;** see information below.
- 6. **After Party for all**, Sunday after the closing ceremonies.
- 7. If anyone is interested in line dancing please e-mail Norm Demeule at <u>norretta@telus.net</u>. We have someone interested in teaching a couple of sessions if there is enough interest.
- 8. Please keep in mind that **silent auction items would be appreciated.** Dorothy Aberle will be looking after this project and can be reached at <u>denaberl@telus.net</u>. You can bring the item with you when you come.
- 9. Registrations forms can be found in the Cloverleaf, Promenader, from your club rep, or e-mail at romar2@telusplanet.net or zwierschke@mcsnet.ca. The form can be downloaded from squaredancecalgary.com or edsapromenader.org.

RV Parking (Reprinted from Info Sheet #2)

No RV Parking available on the parking lot of the Lacombe Memorial Centre

Michener Recreation Campground – Highway 12 & 63 St. Turn south at Petro Canada (Power and hookups, regular prices), reservations after May 1, 2015. Phone Carol at 403-782-2266.

Dry Camping at Site #1 Agricultural Society Grounds – (Grass and paved roads) 58 St south. This site has room for 60 units and is available Friday morning, Sept 4, 2015 starting at 10 a.m.

Dry-Camping at Site #2 NW Arena parking lot – (Paved) 53 St & 55 Ave This site has room for 25 units. Because the Farmer's Market uses the whole arena parking lot complex each Friday, **Square & Round Dancers will not be able to camp at this site until Friday afternoon**, Sept 4, 2015 **after 2:30 pm.**

Hotel Accommodations Convention 2015

The Greenway Inn – 5402 Highway 2A Lacombe. Staff has reserved 20 rooms for dancers (Sept 4, 5, 6, 2015). The rate is \$94 per room **plus tax**, includes continental breakfast. Phone **403-782-7826** and identify yourself as a square dancer using **Group Number 2734.** Reservations must be made by August 14, 2015 to receive group rate.

The Microtel Inn & Suites – along Hwy 2A in North Blackfalds, Alberta. New facility on paved highway, includes continental breakfast. It is about a ten minute drive from Blackfalds to the dance facility in Lacombe. Staff has reserved 13 rooms for Sept 4, 5, 6, 2015 and offers three choices of accommodation:

- 1. One queen size bed, no fridge or microwave at \$88.92 per room
- 2. One queen size bed, with fridge and microwave at \$96.72 per room
- 3. Two queen size beds with fridge and microwave at \$112.32 per room. Plus tax in all three options. To reserve a room phone 403-855-0797 and identify yourself as a dancer using the words Square and Round Dance Convention 2015. Reserve before August 21 2015 to receive group rates.

A Highways employee stopped at a farm and told the farmer, "I need to inspect your farm for a possible new road." The farmer said, "OK, but don't go in that field." The Highways employee said, "I have the authority of the Provincial Government to go where I want. See this card? I am allowed to go where I wish on farm land." So the farmer went about his chores.

Later he heard loud screams and saw the Highway employee running for the fence and close behind was the farmer's prize bull. The bull was madder than a nest full of hornets and was gaining on the employee with every step!! The farmer called out, "Show him your card!"

LIST OF 2015 ALBERTA CAMP-OUTS

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May 15 – 18 Torrington Hall (near Olds)

Wandering Squares Club MAINSTREAM MC: Caller John & Pat Curzon, High River Contact: Allan & Norma Serra 780-466-3564

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May 15 – 18 Holiday Ranch, Spruce View

ADVANCED (A2) Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma,AZ Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098

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May 22-24 Tees (near Red Deer)

Red Deer Club MAINSTREAM
Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ
Contact: Eugene & Eileen Styba 403-342-1509

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May 29 - 31 Torrington (near Olds)

Dots & Dashers Club, Calgary MAINSTREAM Caller: Tom & Maureen Dakers, Calgary Contact: Al & Carol Moody 403-256-8738

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May 29 - 31 Wilton Park Hall (near Calmar)

Country Sunshiners, Edmonton MAINSTREAM Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ Contact: Rick & Trish Duffy 780-909-4493

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June 6 - 7 Jones Farm, Balzac

Rockyview Ramblers Club, Airdire MAINSTREAM Caller: Dave & Marlene Symington, Calgary Contact: Wayne & Doreen Stretch 403-276-2405

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June 12 - 13 Radium, B.C.

MAINSTREAM

Callers Gary Winter, Edmonton & Barry Sjolin, Penticton

Contact: Gary Winter 780-975-3369

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June 19 – 21 Holiday Ranch, Spruce View

CLOGGING Cuer: Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098

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June 19 - 21 Rocky Mountain House

Rocky Whirlaways, Rocky Mountain House MAINSTREAM Caller: Jerry Jestin, Yuma, AZ

Contact: Jim & Doreen Guilloux 403-845-4969

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June 26 - 28 Wilton Park Hall (near Calmar)

Wandering Squares Club MAINSTREAM MC: Caller Larry Jeske, Red Deer Contact: Allan & Norma Serra 780-466-3564

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June 26 - 28 Holiday Ranch, Spruce View

ADVANCED (A1) Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098

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July 3-5 Holiday Ranch, Spruce View

SUPER MAINSTREAM (Dance by Definition) Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098

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July 6 - 8 Holiday Ranch, Spruce View

ROUND DANCE PH. III & IV - Workshop/Teach Cuer: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098

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July 10 – 12 Holiday Ranch, Spruce View

PLUS Callers: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ and Gary & Trish Winter, Edmonton Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098

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July 17 - 19 Holiday Ranch, Spruce View

MAINSTREAM Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098

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July 17 - 19 Sandholm Hall (near Thorsby)

Sandholm Crossroads Club MAINSTREAM Caller Dave & Doreen Kurney, Millet Cuer: Mary & Ron Milton, Strathmore Contact: Mary 780-389-3529

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July 24 - 26 Holiday Ranch, Spruce View

Ron & Connie Morgan MAINSTREAM Callers: Shane Lieber, Edmonton and Gary Smith, Whitecourt

Contact: Ron & Connie Morgan: 403-396-1523

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August 14 - 16 Kingman Hall (near Camrose)

Rose City Club MAINSTREAM

Callers: Allan & Olive Zwierschke, Holden and

Glen & Audrey Eliasson, Edmonton

Contact: Darlene & Charles Delhomeau 780-672-0822

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August 21 – 24 Alberta Jamboree, Fort Saskatchewan

LEVEL OF THE HALL - SQUARES & ROUNDS

Callers: Steve Edlund, Surrey, BC; Jerry Jestin, Yuma, AZ;

Gary Winter, Edmonton

Cuer: Ron & Donna Baba, Medicine Hat Contact: albertajamboree@gmail.com

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September 5-7 47th Alberta Convention, Lacombe

MAINSTREAM to ADVANCED, ROUNDS PH.II-IV/V Multiple Callers and Cuers, Alberta & Outside Alberta

Contact: zwierschke@mcsnet.ca

Editor's Note: My apologies if I missed your Camp-Out. Please email me details and I'll publish it in the next newsletter.