



CHIEF OF CHATTER Claudia Littlefair

The declining number of dancers has made it necessary to discover new ways to teach and promote the activity that we all love. This issue looks at three different approaches – from Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary - that have produced positive results.

Exposing people to one-time dance experiences through demos, community or personal functions and celebrations is another way to promote our activity. See Hope Pennock's article, 'Community Dance Program', which talks about a program that uses 25 calls for quick teach dances, reaching out to people who don't have the time to commit to lessons. Another user-friendly teaching program for some traditional dances and modern square dance is called "Moving and Grooving". This was designed by Nick & Mary Anne Turner of B.C., specifically for community groups and schools. It consists of a 169 page Instruction Manual with 8 CD's of instruction and calling – only \$65 plus shipping. Google <http://movingandgrooving.squaredance.bc.ca/index.html> for more information.

Over the last 20 years, a shortened call list is an idea that has been discussed and debated at great length at CALLERLAB and elsewhere. Less calls would mean a shorter teach time, making it possible to have more than one entry point per dance year. Caller, Jerry Story, from Iowa, who came to Alberta at the beginning of May spoke passionately about the benefits of a 50-call program and called his high-energy dances using the shortened list. "If today's people are having fun they certainly do not want to wait an entire year to invite their friends. This must change! Today's people will bring us plenty of dancers with 3 starts each year." Attached to this email is Jerry's '50 Call Initiative Charter Guide' including the shortened list of calls.



Judy Jackle, Jerry Story,
Grace Chen

It may be possible that your club could benefit from using some or part of the methods explored in this newsletter. In any case, thinking outside the box just may produce some workable solutions to help our activity grow.

CAMP-OUT LIST

TWO additional Camp-Outs to add to the list in the March 26th newsletter:



July 31–August 1 Strathmore

Wheatland Whirlers Club, Strathmore
MAINSTREAM
Callers: Dave Littlefair, and Gary Smith, Whitecourt

EVENING DANCES ONLY. Dry Camping at School.
Contact: Pius & Helen Sauverwald 403-934-3856



August 14 - 16 Torrington Hall

Olds Calico Capers Club MAINSTREAM
Callers: Rick & Kathy Utter, Moyie Springs, Idaho
Contact: Edna & Brian 403-556-6054

For your convenience, the revised list of camp-outs is included in this email as a separate attachment.

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COMMUNITY DANCE PROGRAM (CDP) - by Hope Pennock, Edmonton

Many traditional routines have been danced for dozens and even hundreds of years. Examples are the Virginia Reel, Gay Gordons, Marching to Pretoria, Birdie in the Cage, Sally Goodin, Waltz Quadrille. Modern callers have added a traditional dance to their program occasionally as a light-hearted novelty.



In more recent times, modern square dance has become the norm and the moves have been standardized, in English, the world over. Callers, by analyzing each movement's definition, have developed some interesting moves that keep the dancers attention with new learning and comprehension skills.

However, along this timeline, the present day has added computer and incredible new technology into our lives. Certainly, this has helped the callers to learn calling skills and movement ideas. At the same time, it has drawn people to the computer, the internet and practicing their "sitting skills" instead of fun physical and social activities such as square dancing and its associated dance forms. Of course, an unending array of other programs for all ages from children through seniors have impacted "square dance" clubs. (This term implies all dance forms that fall under the square dance umbrella.) Additionally, more parents are out working in order to meet the ever rising costs of raising a family.

We have come to the point where our new members are fewer and fewer each year. Our present dancers, who know the joys and benefits of square dancing, have been trying and are presently trying to promote and encourage people to join our wonderful recreation.

In 1986, dance leaders from around the world discussed novel ideas. In 1988, the International Association of Square Dance Callers (CALLERLAB) added the Community Dance Program as a way to attract people to dance in an “easy to learn, come when you can” method for all ages. Calvin Campbell, Ken Kernan and Bob Howell spearheaded the program in 1995 with their book “*Dancing For Busy People*” containing many traditional and recently choreographed dances. It has a wide variety of quick teach dances using 25 basic moves in a variety of formations such as squares, mixers, contras, Sicilian circles, couples and solo dances. There are easy to follow directions and music selections are suggested for each dance. With changes in formation and music, the 25 moves give a new and interesting feel each time and also allow quicker teaches.

CDP has been part of the CALLERLAB annual meetings for many years. They presented programs and offered cassette tapes to those in attendance. Andy Pennock brought home several and was also invited to teach his ideas to the group.

In Edmonton, a small group of callers and dancers decided to try the system. Jim and Sheila New, Al and Peggy Deby, Dave and Evelyn Patterson, Evelyn McCracken, Wally Paplinski, and Andy and Hope Pennock met several times to discuss the idea and how to present it. We started by holding a dance in a few communities around the city and a program at our Provincial Convention in 1994. As time passed, we settled on a program at Parkallen School and then Continuing Education and Senior Organizations. The program fit nicely into presentations at elementary schools and for special events such as anniversaries, birthdays, weddings and other special events. In each case, participation by the audience was important and encouraged. Simple routines were added to square and clogging entertainment events wherever requested.

For the past decade, we have held weekly programs at West Edmonton Seniors, Southwest Seniors Outreach and at St. Augustine’s Anglican Church hall. The last group is conducted by the five instructors in four to six week sections each. The challenge for the instructor is to adapt his/her program if new people arrive! Attendance is usually between eight to sixteen people, but our numbers were down much of the time this year.

... attract people to dance in an “easy to learn, come when you can” method for all ages.

We welcome everyone – children, teens, singles, couples, groups. Our goal is:

1. Minimum teach
2. Maximum dance
3. Maximum success
4. Maximum fun

In 2003, we invited Bob Howell of Cleveland, Ohio to be our guest for a weekend of CDP. His presentation was so much fun that we spent a lot of time laughing. At the same time, we gave him one of the books we had assembled called “Dancing For Fun”. The routines are all choreographed by our group along with clear directions, timing, and suggested music. Sheila did all of the computer work and Jim and she had it printed in small three ring binders made along with CD’s of music. All of this was possible through an Imperial Oil grant that Jim applied for as an annuitant. Bob Howell was pleased and actually published some of our dances in his monthly section of “Easy Level Dances” in the *American Square Dance* magazine. He had presented this section in the magazine since 1969. We were certainly honored.

In 2012, 2013, 2014, the Edmonton and District Square Dance Association has included CDP in their annual charity Christmas Toy Dance. We were delighted! Square, round, clog and CDP were rotated throughout the dance afternoon. Thank you ever so much E.D.S.D.A. Many thanks to Claudia Littlefair for requesting an article about the Community Dance Program.

References:

1. *American Square Dance Magazine*
2. “*Dancing For Busy People*” - available from Calvin Campbell – 343 Turf Lane, Castle Rock, CO 80104, USA
3. “*Dancing For Fun*” – available from Jim New, #101 – 100 Foxhaven Drive, Sherwood Park, AB T8A 6B6

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.

Doug & Teresa Dolman Medicine Hat

Our introduction to square and round dancing occurred around 1990. We enrolled in a social dance class here in our hometown of Lethbridge. Near



the end of the course the instructors, Bert and Hazel Leys, mentioned that they taught round dancing at a club called the Bridge Round Dancers. They explained what round dancing was and invited us to try it out. After a few lessons, Doug thought this was wonderful – he didn’t have to worry about “leading” – the cuer told you what steps to do! In fact,

both of us thought it was a wonderful activity and enjoyed it tremendously from day one.

However, after learning the Phase 2 steps of round dancing we discovered that dedicated round dances outside our own club were few and far between. Someone mentioned that round dances were played between square dance tips and so we went to a square dance. It soon became obvious that there was one three-minute round dance every twenty minutes or so, which for us meant a lot of sitting and waiting. As a result we decided just to continue round dancing with the Leys, where we progressed to levels 3 and 4. But most of the round dancers were also square dancers and they often encouraged us to take it up so in October 1994 we did, when caller Bill Craik of the Southminster Square 'N Round Dance Club offered beginner lessons.

We officially graduated from Mainstream lessons in 1996 but by that time we were already dancing at the Plus level thanks to the Leys who ran a Wednesday evening one-square Plus dance to tapes in their home. In May 1995 they invited us to join their group and taught us the rest of Mainstream that we had not yet learned and then all the Plus curriculum by summer's end. It was rather intense but we enjoyed the challenge immensely.

In the late 1990s we continued dancing with both the round and square dance clubs as well as with the Leys' Wednesday evening Plus dance. Teaching and cueing at the Bridge Round Dancers was taken over by Kay and Lee Mitchner after Bert Leys retired due to ill health but the club eventually folded from lack of dancers in 2006. The Southminster Square 'N Round Dance Club folded in 2001 when Bill Craik decided to retire from calling on a regular basis. The group dancing Plus to tapes subsequently moved from Wednesday to Friday evenings and from a member's house to Southminster Church. In 2004 Doug digitized our collection of square and round dance tapes and began buying CDs from well-known callers such as Jerry Jestin, Mike Sikorsky, Johnny Preston and Randy Dougherty. We were then able to use a laptop computer instead of a tape player to set up dance programs. Over the years most of the original tape-dancing members have faded away but other new dancers have been added, some of whom we have helped to learn Plus, including Carol and Don Bengtson and Daphne and Gerald Gerhardt.

Our weekly sessions are very casual affairs – no dressing up, no refreshments provided. We relish the camaraderie and appreciate the exercise of muscles and minds. We can dance to several top-notch callers each evening, altering the speed of the music to match the dancers' abilities. The callers do not become annoyed when we break down and have to stop and replay sections and the more advanced dancers can be challenged with APD (all position dancing) as we are doing presently with music recorded by Dan

Nordbye, a caller from Mesa, Arizona. A loyal core group of dancers has allowed the club to continue despite occasional absences of people because of health issues or travel plans. Special credit must be given to Don and Carol Bengtson for sharing teaching duties when we have taught Plus lessons and for running the weekly sessions in our own absences.

By and large our dancing has been done within Alberta, with occasional trips to dances elsewhere. Two constants in our yearly schedule are the Plus weekend in July at the Holiday Ranch and Jerry Jestin's Western Workshop in Red Deer in October. By far the furthest distance we have gone to square dance was in 2004 when we joined a tour to Germany that was organized by a caller couple from Tucson, Arizona (Tom and Gina Crisp), and co-hosted by Jerry and Janice Jestin. Three couples from Lethbridge (Bengtsons, Gerhardts and ourselves) signed up for the trip and everyone had a great time! The trip combined a lot of sightseeing in Bavaria and Austria with visits to local square dance clubs. Germans take their square dancing seriously and they learn the moves inside and out. We recall one square dance caller calling "Scoot Back, Once and a Half" and our response was "Whaaaaat??" Fortunately the German dancers were very forgiving and the evening was a great success. (We are now somewhat more proficient with the "half" calls.) In Germany the dancers clap twice, not once, on Ping Pong Circulate and they start a Right and Left Grand with a handshake motion on the first hand.

We are both retired from our professions as teachers of chemistry (Doug) and biology (Teresa) at the University of Lethbridge but we are not snowbirds, so don't spend the winters away. However, we do escape during most winters for two to four weeks on birding trips. Birding is our other major avocation, which has taken us to numerous places over the years, including New Zealand, Australia, Iceland and seven countries in Central and South America. Our first



visit to Latin America and the tropics was in Costa Rica and we still remember the excitement of our first day there when our group stopped on a country road to look for birds. There were many different species and all were totally new to us; some were of a type (family) that we had never encountered before. The excitement was akin to that of a young child on Christmas morning. The large number of species, many spectacularly colorful, and their diversity make tropical birding a special treat.

- *'Split second' - that brief moment between reading the highway sign and realizing you've missed the off ramp.*
- *Heartbroken tractor salesman gets a John Deere letter.*
- *Far Eastern monks who sell reincarnation are used karma dealers.*

FAST TRACK PROGRAM

- by Pat & Ray Duffy, EDMONTON

ABOUT THE CLUB

In 2011/2012, the Country Sunshiners promoted and started New Dancer lessons under the watch full eye of Gary Winters.



However, our turnout was low and to our dismay, by Christmas most of our new dancers had disappeared. During a meeting to discuss the results it was suggested a new format might be in order as the current one had not worked and maybe a compressed time frame would be better received. At the 2012 A.G.M. the Club discussed our future and the need for new members. It was decided to initiate the FAST TRACK Program with the hope of increasing the interest in Square Dancing.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Mainstream Program is taught over a period of seven weeks. Dancers attend seven Friday evening sessions and four Saturday morning and afternoon sessions. Each session is two hours, for a total of 14 hours of instruction. The cost of the program is \$100 per person, for couples or singles of all ages, and dress is casual. In the second year, at the request of the New Dancers, a review weekend in March was added at a cost of \$25.

ADVANTAGES

- Because of the condensed time period, dancers have faster and improved retention and recall of the material.
- The shorter learning time appeals to the general public. ie. easier to sell a 7-week program than a year-long program.
- The New Dancers could dance with the Mainstream group within months of starting.
- New Dancers participated in the special dance nights (eg. "Rodeo Week Dance" and "Black is Back – Halloween Dance"). They pitched right in and helped with bringing food, set up, and clean up.
- As the New Dancers gained confidence, many did club visits, often to regain our Mascot.

DISADVANTAGES

- The Club's regular dance night is also on Friday nights, and the Fast Track Program changed the evening to a 'teaching dance'. To compensate, visitors were not charged and instead, a donation box

was made available. Some chose to pay, and others did not.

- A few of the seasoned dancers found the evenings boring and felt that the level of dancing had decreased.
- During the first year, there was difficulty making sure the New Dancers were proficient in all moves. However, over the last two years, caller Murray Few adjusted the program and the New Dancers are now reasonably proficient.

RESULTS & OBSERVATIONS

- The New Dancers brought increased numbers to the club in a short period of time. 2012-13: 12 dancers; 2013-14: 16 dancers; 2014-15: 13 dancers.
- Over the past two year, 19 dancers stayed with the Club.
- Over 3 years, four dancers are serving on the executive.
- Two of the dancers have helped to start a new club in Devon with caller Tom Gray.
- Two others joined the new club as they live closer to Devon.
- Two dancers now dance regularly at another club closer to home, but continue to visit our Club.

For Ray and myself we found this Program to be great. It was wonderful to see and feel excitement, happy

faces, hear a lot of laughing from people who never really heard of square dancing before, learning and enjoying doing so. We did not feel bored and were not affected by the level of the dancing. At the end of each dance, in our now large circle of smiling faces, a resounding thank you to our Callers for giving us another great night of dancing. Our special thanks to Murray Few for pulling this Program all together.

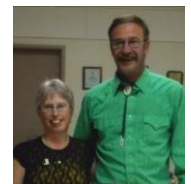


TWICE-A-WEEK, 12 SESSION PROGRAM

- by Ron & Connie Morgan, RED DEER

ABOUT THE CLUB

For the 2014-15 square dance season, the Red Deer Square Dance Club decided to try something new and untested for introducing New Dancers to square dancing. Instead of the usual 6-



7 month lessons once a week, we wanted to do a 12 week, twice a week approach. Red Deer has always had lessons on a separate night than the regular dances, so our new dancers get more floor time right from the start than most other clubs who teach on their regular dance night.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

At first, Ron & I were skeptical of the twelve weeks as it seemed like such a short amount of lesson time, but as soon as the lessons started, we realized that the twice a week made all the difference. At the one time a week, there was lots of time spent on review, with the twice a week, very little review was required. Because Red Deer is a Mainstream club, we wanted the New Dancers to be able to dance this year, so Ron used the ABC Program to start the first 3 lessons (the ones that are usually free) so that new people could join for the first week and a half. He then moved on to the Ten Week Program (Fast Track from CALLERLAB). Then he went through the rest of the Mainstream list and figured out what moves would logically follow others to come up with a 12 week teaching list with all Mainstream moves. We ask for the program to be paid for AFTER the first night, so that prospective dancers can experience one class with no obligation. We do not tell them it is FREE.

ADVANTAGES

- The advantages of a 12 week program are numerous. The main ones are that very little review was needed, memory retention rate was vastly improved over a single time.
- The New Dancers could be integrated into the club sooner.
- The most important advantage is that we could have more than one class a year. In January we started another 12 week session.

DISADVANTAGES

- Needless to say, there are a few disadvantages using this method, the biggest one being "Angel Burnout". We do ask that the New Dancers from the first lessons come back to mentor the newest class, which gives them more floor time.
- "Caller Burnout" could be a disadvantage as well, but given the advantages, we will keep going.
- New Dancers must be committed to coming twice a week, so they basically put their lives on hold for 3 months.

- It is also more expensive to have 2 entry points in the year at twice a week – the hall rental & caller fees were the most expensive.
- Those who find it hard to learn, or who cannot come to each class would not be able to keep up, so this is not geared to older or ones with health issues.

RESULTS & OBSERVATIONS

- Our success rate was awesome. There was no dropout because of the 12 weeks, twice a week.
- We celebrated (are not using the word 'graduation' anymore) 7 new dancers in the fall session and 9 new dancers in the winter session. Of those 16, there are 15 very enthusiastic, committed dancers to add to the dancing community.
- Most of the New Dancers said that if the program was 6 months long, they would not either have stayed, or would not continue after lessons. The Red Deer Club is committed to using this type of lesson plan for as long as we have New Dancers willing to learn.

THE NEST

- by Dave & Claudia Littlefair, CALGARY

ABOUT THE CLUB

The Banff Trailers Club dance every second Saturday, and have New Dancer lessons every Monday night. Each September several New Dancers would join, but due to factors such as illness, time constraints, vacations, only some were able to complete the year. The club was looking for a new way to increase their numbers, and when 'The Nest' idea was presented they agreed to give it a try during the 2014-15 dance year.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program was designed by an American square dancer, Dale Bennett, in 2012. It is run with a Caller and several Narrators. The Mainstream Program is broken down into one-couple, two-couple and four-couple calls. The Narrators, who are trained square angels, teach the one and two-couple calls at stations, using a script of patter. They read the script and stop when they reach a new call. The Narrator teaches the call, and then the script is read again until the next new call. After several new calls, the same script can be re-read with patter music, to reinforce the calls that were taught. On completion of the one and two-couple calls, the New

Dancer is ready to move on to the last station - the Four-Couple calls which is taught by the Caller.

Square angels were needed to fill in at the Narrator Stations, which operated with a minimum of two couples. We usually ran with two Narrator Stations plus the Caller Station. At the beginning of the year, there were no dancers who were ready for the Four-Couple Caller-Station, so that time was used to review the more complicated calls with any of the square angels who weren't needed at the Narrator Stations.

We modified the program format to include dancing together as one group. A typical evening is broken down as follows:

- First 1/2 Hour - danced all together in the main room, using the Sicilian Circle and introducing basic moves.
- Next Hour - Station Work.
- Last 1/2 Hour - danced together in the main room, this time in squares, up to the level of calls that were taught at the Narrator Stations, or with quick teaches for moves that weren't covered.
- Pooled Lunch.

ADVANTAGES

- Multiple Entry Points: A New Dancer can start any Monday night during the entire dance year. This also means they can bring friends any time they want to (friends don't have to wait until next fall to join).
- Can encourage New Dancers, every week, to bring their friends. New concept!
- Learn at own pace. Can go thru the MS program in 8 weeks or 8 months - whatever time it takes.
- If absent (eg. vacation, sickness) it's not an issue. The dancer can pick up from wherever he or she left off, or can review the moves and then continue on.

DISADVANTAGES

- Advertising must be done throughout the year, not just at the beginning. This increases costs and also the work done by club volunteers.
- Does not follow the same order as the Callerlab Mainstream list. If New Dancers are going to beginner-level dances outside of the Club, any 'missing' calls need to be taught.
- Requires a designated New Dancer night, without Mainstream, in order for this to work.

The roundest knight at King Authur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

RESULTS & OBSERVATIONS

- 35 people tried out the program. Of the 35, 15 came once or twice and dropped out for various reasons. 20 stayed - or 57%.
- Of the 20 who came regularly, 11 completed the MS program. The non-completes either started too late to finish or had too many absences to complete the program.
- If we had done the dance year the "old way" with one entry point, only 5 people would have started, and none of them would have completed the program, due to sicknesses and vacations. Because of the flexibility that the Nest offers, three of these 5 completed the year, the other two quit for health reasons.
- 25% of the people who came, some of whom stayed, were friends of the New Dancers.
- We attracted younger ages – our group of New Dancers ranged from early-20's to 70+ years.
- The younger the dancers, the faster they went through the program. It seemed to take the same amount of explanation and walk-thrus, but the younger dancers were much better at remembering and retaining the information from week to week.

CALLER KUDOS

Congratulations to Edmonton caller, Murray Few – and Barb, on 50 years of calling! Murray's achievement was recognized, in his absence, at the recent CALLERLAB Convention in Springfield, Missouri.



Calgary caller, Lorne Smith, had the special honor of being the "Mystery Caller" at the 66th Annual Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival, held in

Langley, BC on the May 1st weekend. One hundred teen dancers from seven clubs in B.C., Washington and Oregon, ranging in ages from 6 to 21, participated. Along with the teens, came parents, visitors, judges, time keepers, and organizational staff for a total of 400 people. As the guest Mystery Caller, Lorne's role was to provide the recording of patten tips covering 5 categories (Pre-Teen, Novice, Junior, Intermediate, and



Senior) from Basic level thru to anything goes Plus. Each group was required to dance the best they could in their division to the recording with as few mistakes as possible with no knowledge of who would be the caller or what would be called. Google Youtube -2015 PNTSDF for a variety of clips, including Lorne's calling.

ALBERTA CONVENTION UPDATE September 5, 6, 7, 2015, Lacombe

- Registrations total 103 from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario to date and are arriving steadily.
- Register by June 30 to get the best price!
- Registration forms can be found in the Cloverleaf, Promenader, or email at romar@telusplanet.net or zwierschke@mcsnet.ca. The form can be downloaded from squaredancecalgary.com or edsdapromenader.org.
- We have 17 callers and 14 cuers and are very pleased that the AGM of Canadian Society will be held at the Convention.
- A reminder to bring your Banner for the Banner parade Saturday morning.
- If you have an item to donate to the Silent Auction we would be happy to accept it.
- Don't forget to book your hotel early.
- If desired bring your Club Colors for the Saturday night dance.



See you all in Lacombe,
Ron & Margaret Faas, Promotions/Publicity

Convention Church Service

If there are those who would like to have a choir this year, and they email or phone, or write to me, I'll mail out a copy of Haydn's beautiful "The Heavens Are Telling The Glory of God" as an anthem. And if anyone would like to accompany us with an instrument, and they let me know what key their instrument is in, I'll try to get a copy in the correct key and sent it to them also. Note: This is not a difficult arrangement. Cheers!

David K. Gilchrist, Box 1111, Disbury, AB T0M 0W0
403-335-3012 dmgilx@gmail.com

- Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.
- Ham & eggs - a day's work for a chicken, a lifetime commitment for a pig.
- Meaning of Polynesia - memory loss in parrots.

CUEING & CALLING AT JAMBOREE - by Rudy & Sue Neufeld, Chair



Ron and Donna Baba

Ron and Donna started square and round dancing in 1966 and 1967 respectively, in Vancouver, BC. A year and a half later, they were asked to

teach rounds. As Ron's career moved their family about Western Canada, they established classes in Cranbrook, Kimberley, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Calgary and Medicine Hat. Currently, they conduct classes in Calgary (Beginners to Phase IV+) and Medicine Hat (Phase II).

The Babas have supported other round dance clubs by mentoring cuers/instructors and have developed programs in Roundalab. They often partake in weekend and summer workshops and festivals throughout western Canada and the United States. They have participated in three Canadian National Conventions and four U.S. National Square and Round Dance Conventions. And, along the way, they have greatly enjoyed the many new friends and places. Not surprisingly, Ron and Donna are recipients of awards of excellence from their dancers, AASRDF and CSRDS in recognition of their achievements and contributions to Round Dancing.

After "retiring", the Babas moved from Calgary to Medicine Hat – great grandchildren are an irresistible attraction! Ron continues to do contract and consulting work.



Gary Winter

In 1984, when Gary was eight years old, he started square dancing and soon decided that he wanted to be a square dance caller. In 1986 Murray Few started to teach him. Gary attended two caller schools, one in Alberta and one in

Washington. In 1988 Gary became a club caller for the *Swinging JJ's Teen Club*. In 1994 Gary and his parents, Rick and Judy Winter, took a group of teen square dancers on a trip through northern Germany and Denmark. A highlight for Gary was calling at the World Square Dance Convention in Roskilde, Denmark. In 2007 Gary returned to Germany to call for the "Der Baer ist Los" festival in Heidenheim, Germany. He was able to call in various towns along the way to and in Salzburg, Austria.

Over the years Gary has been a club caller for 8 different square dance clubs. Currently, he is club caller for *West*

Edmonton Promenaders and Crossfire and travels extensively throughout western Canada, calling for weekend specials and festivals.

In July of 2002, Gary married Trish Minns. They had met at a square dance where Trish's dad was calling. Gary and Trish live in Edmonton with their two sons, Coen and Kaiden, who both enjoy going square dancing with Dad. When Gary is not calling square dances or being "Dad", he has a full time job as a shop foreman at a local Dodge dealership. Gary also enjoys spending time outdoors, camping, downhill skiing and various water sports.

Steve Edlund

Steve began square dancing as a teenager with the rest of the neighbourhood kids as they joined their parents at the Surrey Square Wheelers. He tried calling at a Goofers' night, and the rest, as they say, is history. As a member of the Wesburn Wranglers he won the Senior Champion at the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival. A great pleasure in later years was to call for this club for 18 years, as well as calling for the Abbotsford Swinging Hubs, Lochdale and Silver Saddles Square Dance clubs. Presently Steve is still calling for the Royal Swingers (as he has for over 30 years) as well as the Surrey Square Wheelers and the Abbotsford Swinging Hubs.



Square dance calling has brought Steve the opportunity to travel extensively throughout North America, Sweden and Japan. He has also called in San Jose, Costa Rica and Oslo, Norway. Currently, Steve is on the staff of Elite Records, based in Houston, Texas. Steve has been calling for over 30 years and wouldn't change a thing.

Steve lives in Surrey, British Columbia with his wife of 28 years, Lynette and their 22 year old daughter, Kristen. Steve loves hockey, and has spent a number of years helping and coaching Kristen's hockey team, and appreciates the opportunity to play hockey with her during the summer. He also enjoys golfing, bike riding and kayaking with the whole family.

Jerry Jestin

As a youngster, growing up near Delburne, Alberta, Jerry and his sister, Loretta attended square dances with their parents. Early in his life, Jerry played the piano and sang in many amateur shows. He and Loretta learned to square dance from Frank Dorwood. Frank knew Jerry could sing so he handed a record to Jerry and told him to practice. Jerry learned the singing call and has been calling ever since. His first dance was in 1967.



Jerry has always liked performing. Sometimes he would call duets with his sister. After a time he felt that he had gone as far as he could in Canada as a full time caller. In 1979, he relocated to Texas, attending Texas A&M University, majoring in Physical Education and Health.

In 1980, while calling and attending school, he met and married Janice Lee Graham, whose father was a caller in San Antonio. In 1984, Jerry and Janice became the resident square and round dancing and clogging instructors at a RV park in Yuma, Arizona. By 1985, they were working at two parks, offering a full program for all levels of the various dances. From 1990-1994, they worked as the resident Caller/Cuer/Directors at Lionshead Resort outside West Yellowstone, Montana. During the summer months they taught squares, rounds and clogging and coordinated the hiring of guest callers and cuers. When Jerry is not in Yuma, Zealand and Canada calling at festivals and dances.

Jerry has worked for several square dance record labels and has released a multitude of numbers. Jerry and Janice have also composed many round dances. For listening and dancing, he has various levels of dance recordings available. He is well-known for his creative choreography, high-energy presentation and use of a wide variety of music.

- I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
- She was only a whisky maker, but I loved her still.

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