



This newsletter provides promotion and marketing ideas, shines a light on people in our dance community, provides history and general information about our much loved activity, and highlights provincial and national events. If you wish to contribute an article, or see an event, topic, person, or club featured, contact the editor.



CHATTER FROM THE CHIEF - Claudia Littlefair Dance Year Reflection

As the dance season ends, it's time to reflect on how it went. This is the second year that our Strathmore club, just east of Calgary, used 'The Nest' program for new dancers. (We also use this program for a club located in Calgary.) The method is straightforward and simple. About 70% of the mainstream calls are 'two-couple' calls, and these calls are taught in small work stations by narrators (ie. callers/experienced dancers) who follow a patter script. On completion of the two-couple calls, the remaining four-couple calls are taught in the main room by the main caller. There are several benefits to this method.

1. Dancers can join any time throughout the dance season.
2. Absences are not an issue because dancers simply pick up where they left off.
3. Dancers learn at their own pace (fast or slow) without affecting the other dancers.

What this method has meant for us in Strathmore is that our club is not only surviving, but thriving. Four years ago we were close to shutting down because our small group of dancers (one to two squares/night) were quickly aging out. We were fortunate to graduate several new dancers that year and the next, who were willing to take on executive positions. But we were still just hanging in there. When we introduced The Nest program two years ago, six dancers completed the program. Using the old method (one fall entry point and no absences), only two of the six would have completed.

This year seven people have completed the program. Using the old method, only one person would have completed. We are still a small club BUT we are building back up. We currently have 30 active members, and only 2 of them have danced for more than 8 years. We are like a new club, with enthusiastic dancers and no preconceived ideas of how a club should be run. Dress is dancers' choice - casual, traditional or western. Everyone brings something to put on the snack table, and these are nibbled on throughout the evening. Congregating around the food is an easy way for new dancers to meet and talk with the experienced ones. We have a mix of all ages, people who work and those who are retired. And we embrace couples and singles – with most of the single dancers (men and women) willing to learn both sides. The other night, one of the single dancers new to our club, who used to dance years ago when her husband was alive, said, "This is the most welcoming and friendliest club I have ever seen. I tell all my friends about it." Yes, it's been another good year.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? - by Tom Gray, Leduc

Naming a business or an organization is an important step that can be part of the difference between success and failure, according to some business sources. Entrepreneur Media's book 'Start Your Own Business' has these suggestions:

- Ideally, your name should convey the expertise, value and uniqueness of your product or service.
- Choose a name that appeals not only to you but also to the kind of customers you are trying to attract.
- Choose a comforting or familiar name that conjures up pleasant images so customers respond to your business on an emotional level.
- Don't pick a name that is long or confusing.
- People prefer words they can relate to and understand. That's why professional namers universally condemn strings of numbers or initials as a bad choice (IBM and BMW only became recognizable after their success).
- Stay away from cute puns that only you understand.
- Suggestive names that focus on what the business is about can be quite effective: Italiatour. HouseBoatAbout. DeLightFul. Shoperific. Note also that these names carry emotional connotations.

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How are ballroom or other dance studios named? I googled “dance studio” and here's a selection from the first page or two (they are from the Edmonton area because Google read my location):

- Connectivity Dance Studio
- Foot Notes Dance
- Elite Dance Academy
- Ballroom and Country Dance Studio
- Social Ease Dance Studio
- Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society
- SugarSwing Dance Club
- Sugar Foot Ballroom Dance
- Let's Swing Edmonton
- ETown Salsa

What do these have in common? They're all relatively short. Many are a bit “catchy”. They generally indicate the type of dance on which they focus. In fact, with most, even if you take away the words dance club or dance studio, you still know what they teach -- salsa, swing, country, social. Sometimes the name indicates the city where the group is found. These factors are all important to a business or organization. You want your name to stand out, to be short and catchy and easy to grasp. You want prospective customers to be easily able to tell at a glance that your studio offers what they want and that you're in their area.

Now let's look at some local square dance clubs:

- Country Sunshiners
- Country Cousins
- Dots and Dashes
- West Edmonton Promenaders
- Double Diamonds
- St. Peter's 2 x 4s
- Buttons and Bows
- Northern Twisters

Again, these clubs came up in the first two pages of a search for “square dance Edmonton”. Except for one name, do you have any idea where they are? Without the full name of so-and-so “Square Dance Club”, would you have any idea what they do? Most club names from the '50s and '60s are “cutesy” and meaningful only to the square dance community. “Rodeville Yellow Rockers” doesn't mean much to the average non-dancer (unless they think of cowardly rock musicians). Its full name, “Rodeville Yellow Rockers Square Dance Club” is clear enough, but very long. It may even be truncated in some print listings. “Rodeville Square Dancers”, while prosaic, is short, clear and to the point, giving both location and activity.

Yes, your club has been in existence for 20, 40, 60, whatever years and tradition is hard to break, especially for the old folks who have been there from way back when. But if your club is dying, and if you want to infuse it with new life (and new dancers), perhaps it's time to consider a new name.

JERRY & JANICE JESTIN ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT PLANS



This is an official announcement about our future plans for the Square Dance, Round Dance and Clogging activities which have been a major part of our lives.

We will be retiring at the end of 2019. We have enjoyed our time working in these activities and enjoyed traveling and meeting great people from all over the world. I had my 50th anniversary of calling in July, 2017.



If any of you would like to book us one last time, check my website,

www.jerryjestin.com and the calendar and contact me with details. There will be a retirement weekend party/meet & greet, during the summer of 2019 in Alberta, Canada. Details will be announced as we finalize the details.

My 'live' CDs are still available from 2002 in Mainstream, Plus, A-1, A-2, and C-1 is available from 2013. I send the mp3 versions by Dropbox and you can pay on PayPal.

Editor's Note: For a glimpse into what international calling is like, see Alberta Chatter Issue #2017-17, for an interview with Jerry Jestin.

CHATTER CLOSE-UP

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, a club, or a special event, email claudia.littlefair@gmail.com and I would be happy to contact them.

Editor's Note: *This time of year callers and cuers are often recognized for their part in making the dance season a success. The following is an article about how a caller got his start in this wonderful activity. His story resonates with many others, as most callers stepped forward to fill in a gap, making it possible for a club to continue dancing.*

THEM WAS THE GOOD OL' DAYS, OR, MY START AS A CALLER

- By Nick Turner



In the early 1970s, I was invited to join a small group of people who square danced once a week in the basement of a local rancher's house a few miles west of Alexis Creek. I'd never heard of Square Dancing but was game to give it a try. We danced to singing call records played on a turntable with no speed control so we always danced singers like bats out of hell. I learned to dance 'Tiny Bubbles', 'Pussy Cat', 'Rosabella', 'Houston' and 'Mighty Joe' from among the small collection of records. There was no Round Dancing. The group grew bigger and we started to travel around the area to dance in other people's houses. In the

living room of one, we tried to dance a song called 'Down In Old Mexico' but the called side was so scratched up, we could not make out the calls. The music side of the record was pristine so I volunteered to try calling the song - no microphone, no amplifier and of course, no experience and no practice and that was my start as a "caller".

Back in 'them good old days' of forty and more years ago, all Square Dance music was recorded on 45 rpm vinyl records. On one side was a caller doing the patter or singer and on the reverse side was just the music. To hear new releases, callers joined a Square Dance record review service and each month received a cassette tape with samples of all the new music from the past month. They could then listen to 25 - 30 new releases each month and order what they liked, pay by credit card - number already held by the record service (no hacking in the days) - and the records would be mailed to them sandwiched between two square pieces of cardboard - often held up at customs - and so a week or more after ordering they received their new music.

Times change and now callers can order directly from the music producers' websites with a click of the mouse, receive the MP3 download usually in minutes, upload it to their laptop and be practising the song. They can listen to new releases, find any song available on a website, pay by PayPal and 'Bob's your uncle.' The music review service sold out to a new owner a few years ago who quickly dumped 200,000 vinyl records from the inventory in the trash. The 45 rpm vinyl is a thing of the past and after a brief fling with CDs, and mini discs most callers today are fully digital. If anyone is interested, I have all the cassette tapes and the notes from the vinyl years. Free for the asking! (You pay shipping.)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - Nick & Mary Ann Turner, Williams Lake, B.C.

Nick learned to square dance in 1970, and started calling in 1976 – 40 years ago! Mary Anne started dancing in 1988, and taught herself to cue rounds in 1992 – 24 years ago. They married in 1993 and live in Williams Lake, B.C. Both are retired school teachers.

They designed and wrote a successful, user friendly dance program, as well as recorded the CDs, for teachers and community group leaders, entitled "Moving and Grooving". The first section - "MOVING" - is a collection of traditional dances. Many of these dances will be "walked thru" once on one track and then the dance will be cued or prompted to the music on the next track of the CD. The second section, "GROOVING" is entirely Modern Square Dancing. There are ten sequential units, with all instructions and calling done on the CDs. In addition to Squares and Rounds, the Turners have a considerable repertoire of Easy Mixers, Couple Dances, Circle Dances, and Contras. They received the Award of Excellence from the Canadian Square & Round Dance Society in 2008, and the Sillery Award from the B.C. Federation in 2009, recognizing their contributions to the square and round dance world.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF DARKNESS - by Dee Jackins

Dee is an avid square and round dancer, and enjoys writing. She shares the lighter side of some of her experiences, challenges and near disasters as a sight impaired person. See past issue #2015-6 for her complete story under "Chatter-Closeup".



Dee and her husband squared danced from 1969 to 1971. In 1975, she lost sight in her left eye, and by 1989 her vision was completely gone. While trying to cope with her blindness, Dee's husband was diagnosed with cancer. He died 10 months later in October, 1991. A friend suggested that she try square dancing again, and in 1995 she joined Calgary's singles club. Dee has been dancing ever since. She dances by visualizing the calls and positions, and with the gentle guidance of dancers' hands for no-hand calls such as weave the ring.

Thank goodness for talking devices, beepers, timers, alarms and anything that makes you aware of any activities going on in your surroundings. A high percentage of these handy little toys were successful and worked wonders but as everyone knows, there's Murphy's Law and for some reason I think Murphy was out to give me a challenge.

Years back, I started with a few basic items that were available but as time progressed some of these items were very interesting. One of the first items purchased was a talking weigh scale. The old one no longer served its purpose. After all, one must keep track of their weight at all times, right? Way back when I first moved here, my neighbor of only a few months had me over for coffee and was full of questions about how I managed to operate on my own. After explaining quite a few things that come automatically and some others which were more difficult, I commented at the end of our visit that if I got lonesome, there was no problem, I just had to go to the Indoor/outdoor thermometer. It would say "good morning, afternoon, evening" or "good night". Then there's always the weigh scale - step on it and it would tell me my weight, how much I had either lost or gained and then in a nice cheery voice say "Have a good day!" She didn't know how to respond. Feeling guilty, my neighbor commented she should visit more often. I quickly assured her I was just kidding and friends we still are. (I often wonder what the scale would say if it reached 500 pounds or more!)

This same thermometer has never operated properly. All the choices were set as to the instruction sheet. I made sure the alarm was set for 'off' but it totally ignored the settings and the voice would repeat itself three times. This was getting a bit irritating after a while but it wouldn't turn off. Wait a minute, I know what you're thinking. Yes, friends with sight have checked it out and set it properly but to no avail. It still has a mind of its own. Then there's the alarm clock. I have one that has a rather harsh crowing call. It wasn't used very often so it was placed in the back of the drawer across the room months ago. One morning at about 5 a.m. the rooster crowed to its heart's content, with no warning. I hadn't been in that drawer for a long time. What was setting it off??? I quickly scooted over to the dresser and smothered the clock, trying to silence the noise, looking for the switch to turn it off. Finally there was peace. What a rude awakening!! When it was put away this time, the batteries were removed, which should have been done in the first place.

When it comes to wrist watches, there are the Braille ones you read with your finger after you raise the lid, the talking watches which respond at the touch of a button, and there's the normal watch most people use. I call it the 'Tell-me' watch. One of the callers noticed me reading my Braille watch. He questioned me on the variety of watches that were available. He was quite curious as to how this 'Tell-me' watch operated. So I explained to him that when I wear it and want to know the time, I bend my elbow so the watch is facing him and ask, "Can you please tell me the time?" There was a long pause, I could just about hear the wheels turning and then he started laughing. He wasn't expecting that response and promised to get even with me - and that he did!

My latest talking device is the Google Home. It's a bundle of information, and even some you don't expect or need. After about a week of experimenting with this object, I was listening to the news one morning and London Drugs was advertising the Google Home along with the Google Mini, which was going on sale just before Christmas. The news anchor asked him to show everyone how this system worked so he commanded, "Okay Google put bread on my shopping list". Before the Google on the TV could respond, my Google sitting in the kitchen answered harmoniously and said, "Okay, bread is on your shopping list." What a surprise! I then remembered it was set to respond to anyone's voice. Later I asked my Google to take bread off of the shopping list. It replied, "You must download the Google App before I can delete." So now bread is on my list twice. Another reason to get an iPhone. Can't keep up at this rate. After saying "Hey" or "Okay Google" so

often, I asked if I could change its name. The response was, "No, you can't change my name. Too much paper work!" What paper work??? Oh well, I tried!

ODE TO THE SQUARE DANCE CALLERS - - by Harold Haskell, Maine, USA

Have you ever stopped to ponder, about the ones who stand up yonder, calling out the lively Square Dance Calls? How they got to be so clever, by the sweat of their endeavour, in the confines of their lonely basement walls? Of the endless repetition, to perfect their smooth rendition, to bring to you the calls you like to hear? Of the practice that's required, often weary, often tired, but still determined that they shall persevere? They must buy a good-sized shipment, of some highly-priced equipment, and literature and records by the score! And they must bear this heavy load, to square dance halls along the road, to get you out there dancing on the floor! And don't forget their family life, the ones forced to listen to the strife, and to the noise that all practice brings. So when the dancing night is done, and you've had a night of fun, remember all those most important things.

THE INTERVIEW - CALLERLAB Square Dance Marketing Plan, Caller Mike Hogan

Gaining media coverage of square dancing is a very valuable tool we can use to enhance the public's opinion of our activity. **The more we can get this kind of positive exposure, the more open to the idea of participating the public will be.** That in turn will make recruiting efforts more effective. You should always be prepared to handle an interview if one happens.

If they are coming to your dance, contact them and find out what they want. Do they want to just come to the dance? Are they going to write an article on the experience? If so, what information can you provide them with? What will the article be themed on? If it's health, be sure you have plenty of health facts to share with them. If it's about entertainment, ask if they want to meet with the caller before or after the dance and set that up.

Do Say

- Square dancing has modernized with new music and new dress codes.
- Square dancing is a fun social activity with many added benefits.
- Square dancing offers great low impact physical exercise. Dancer will walk 5,000 to 7,000 steps in a single evening of dance, burning over 300 calories, all of which is lost on them because they are having too much fun.
- Square dancing strengthens mental skills and reduces stress. Dancers must listen and react to the commands given by the caller which keeps them focused and unable to worry about their daily lives. Again, all of this is lost on the dancer because they are having too much fun.
- The (fill in name of District) is made up of (fill in number) square dance clubs and (fill in number) round dance clubs.

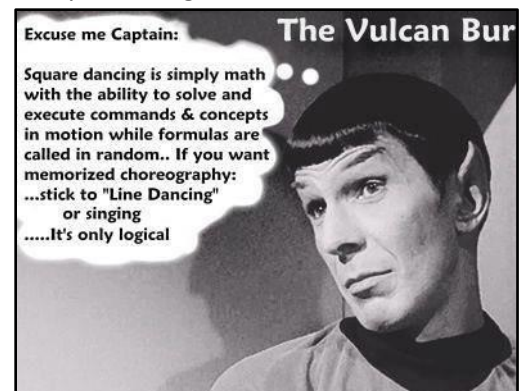
Do Not Say

- Do not refer to the declining population of square dancers.
- Do not refer to the increasing average age of square dancers.
- Do not refer to the health benefits helping seniors.
- Do not make any comments that infer that square dancing is for seniors.
- Do not mention alcohol.

Be aware of how you or the interviewee looks for the interview. A picture

is worth a thousand words. This is show business now. This is supposed to be a fun, healthy activity for folks of all ages. If you put a 78-year-old overweight frowning woman with white hair in a checkered square dance dress with full petticoat on screen, you'll never sell the idea that we've modernized, that this is fun, or that this is for folks of all ages.

Whether the interview is live or for an article to be produced later, keep in mind that you do not have control over what is asked or what is written. **Control what you can control!** You can introduce the interviewer to dancers who are possibly younger, or have a great story like marrying someone they met at a square dance. You can provide photos to the interviewer ahead of time. Work ahead of time with the caller to be sure they are using a good mix of music at the event.



A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

This column features excerpts from the book "As I See Saw It –Bob Osgood", reprinted with permission from the author and square dance caller, Paul Moore. This book is also a complete history of Modern Western Square Dance (MWSD). Jim Mayo, First Chairman of CALLERLAB, provided the following review comments: "This is truly the only book about the whole of MWSD and it is certainly the most complete (and accurate) book that will ever be written about this huge activity." Paul had access to all of the material that crossed Bob Osgood's desk at Sets in Order / American Square Dance Society. This book tells, in a very readable style, the story of Bob Osgood and his role in Square Dancing from the late 1940s through 2003. This is the story of MWSD as told by the man who was there and made it happen. We believe every caller and dancer should read this book to know what happened during the boom era, the creation of CALLERLAB, the start and growth of the National Square Dance Convention, and more. For additional information, please contact Paul Moore at paulmoore@wildblue.net or look for this 600+ page book on Amazon.ca (\$26).

Editor's Note: Last issue described how square dance magazine, Sets In Order, edited by Bob Osgood, was the main communication tool between callers, leaders and dancers across the United States and across continents. This magazine published hand books on calls, had regular features such as "Dance of the Month" and dance choreography sent in by readers. It kept everyone apprised of the latest in square and round dance choreography and calls, and standardized our dances.

MAGAZINE MORPHS INTO AN ORGANIZATION

Since establishing the magazine, Sets In Order had been involved in far more than simply publishing a magazine.

- Asilomar Institutes with courses in Leadership for callers,
- two university leadership conferences for callers and teachers,
- a series of school-teaching records that were being very well received,
- the first in a series of four caller/teacher manuals,
- a motion picture on square dancing that has been circulated throughout the world,
- a series of almost a dozen specialized handbooks on various phases of square dancing

were a few of the great number of additional responsibilities we had undertaken.

I felt that some of the effectiveness of these activities was jeopardized by being sponsored by a magazine. We needed to find a way to increase the positive view of Sets In Order. We also had to consider just the economics of the situation: increase in printing costs, increase in postage, increase in salaries for staff, etc.

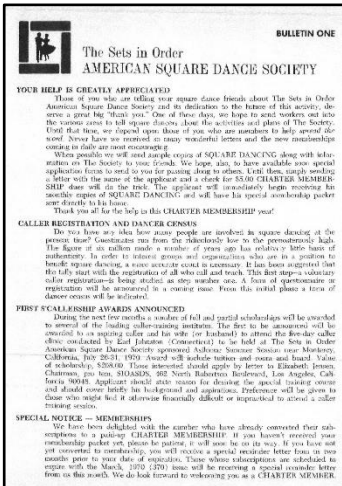
Perhaps we were being a bit cynical, but there was a lot to be said for "snob-appeal": people all over the country were joining organizations, charitable groups, fraternal organizations, and so forth, just to feel they were "closer to the action". We could change to a membership without having to change much of what we were doing.

People who joined the Sets In Order "organization" would receive the magazine as a benefit. We also set to work on

additional benefits such as a membership card, eligibility for group charter travel to many spots in the world, group insurance, participation in leadership training and possible seminars and conventions, or opportunity to purchase Sets In Order textbooks at pre-publication prices, or an opportunity to receive Sets In Order yearly premium records for a cost and handling fee of (perhaps \$1.00), etc.

We changed our façade from that of a magazine to a service society so that we were in a better position to accomplish these goals. The end result of all this was a society dedicated to American Square Dancing. We invited people to become "a part of the action", a "member of the family", so that what we did became a part of the dancer's world of square dancing.

January 1970 the first issue of SQUARE DANCING, the Official Magazine of the Sets in Order American Square Dance Society rolled off the presses.



Society's Bulletin #1 in January, 1970 Issue



WHY DO WE DANCE?

- by Austin & Avril Hayward, Publicity Chair Couple
2018 Canadian Square & Round Dance Convention

We as Canadians are a very diversified and unique society exposed to many, many cultures and dances. We all listen to music and regardless of whom you are, we all feel some urge to dance at one time or another, or are expected to dance on occasion.

Dancing isn't something that can be explained in words. It has to be danced. Why? Because dancing is far easier to feel than to explain.

If you already dance, it may be interesting for you to read the many reasons listed in this article that may pertain to your desire to dance, and some of these may surprise you. No, it is not because dancing is an inexpensive date, or because you have nothing better to do. So, let's be realistic. Dancing makes me happy. It is said that there are many short cuts to happiness, and that dancing is one of them. I know that dancing makes my wife happy, and anything that puts a smile on her face is something I want to be doing.

Exercise for your mind? Absolutely. Scientific studies have proven that dance has been shown to improve motor function, mental symptoms and overall quality of life in both people with and without Parkinson's disease or dementia. (Ten ways dance strengthens the brain www.nicabm.com).

We dance for emotional stability. "While I dance I cannot judge, I cannot hate, I cannot separate myself from life. I can only be joyful and whole. This is why I dance" (*Hans Bos*)

George Bernard Shaw once wrote "if you can't get rid of the skeletons in your closet, you'd best teach it to dance".

We all have circumstances in our lives that demand our attention and leave us with emotional highs and lows that consume our thoughts. When we dance, all our thoughts amalgamate to our dancing, leaving us free to experience the pleasures of friends, partners, music and dance.

We dance to express ourselves. Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion. I see dance being used as communication between body and soul, to express what is too deep to find in words. "The truest expression of a people is in its dance and in its music. Bodies never lie." (*Agnes De Mille*)

Dancing makes you more interesting as a person. "Dancing insists we take up space, and though it has no set direction, we go there together. Dance is dangerous, joyous, sexual, disruptive and contagious. It can happen anywhere, at any time, with anyone and everyone. Dance joins us and pushes us to go further." (*Eve Ensler*)

Personal artistic expressions draw attention to us as dancers. There are so many ways one can dance. Artistic expression can be unique to you as an individual and create interest in those that wonder where your creativity comes from. Is it your cultural background, your ethnic heritage or simply your love of dance?

It is said that dancing is all fun and no pressure. Now I realize that not everyone enjoys dancing as much as I do, but I really believe that you feel better when you dance. Some people feel nervous, or self-conscious or maybe even shy? For us, life really is so much more fun when you throw all of that out the window and just live in the moment and dance. No one cares if you are a good dancer or not. "Dance like nobody is watching" is a common phrase with deep meaningful roots.

Dancing cures the "working is no fun" syndrome. (www.dancewithmeusa.com)

Eight reasons why dancing will enhance your mood and boost productivity while you work.

1. Dancing makes you smarter
2. Dancing encourages team building
3. Dancing improves your energy level and wellness

- 4. Dancing improves your health and fitness
- 5. Dancing boosts your confidence
- 6. Dancing improves your creativity
- 7. Through dancing, your perseverance and dedication are noticed and valued.
- 8. Dancing is fun.

Dancing provides us the opportunity to exercise, socialize and share our love of dance with friends. We would never have dreamed that dancing would expand our friendship circle to the magnitude it has become. How exciting it is to know that we can dance anywhere from Yuma, Az. to Halifax, NS to Vancouver Island and many, many other places in between, meeting new friends and renewing old friendships.

Travelling to dance conventions in Canada and the U.S. provides the perfect opportunity for us to see old friends again.

There are far too many reasons why people dance. For me to expand on or to justify any one person's specific reason is not necessary, only that they dance.

Some will tell you that it is excellent exercise for the body and mind. Some dance for mental clarity. Some dance to show the world who they really are and project an image, or to overcome fear, improve relationships, decrease anxiety or to help them cope with daily stressors. Some dance because it makes them feel beautiful and powerful.

Jamie Benson explains how dance can replace your physical and psychological burdens (both chemically and emotionally) with pure joy. (www.thoughtcatalogue.com/jamie-benson)

The best part is that literally, anyone can dance for whatever the reason.

Why do we dance? Perhaps a better question would be: Why would we not?

"Make The Scene in 2018" See you at the **2018 Canadian Square and Round Dance Convention in London, Ontario.**



CONVENTION 2018

20th Canadian National
Square & Round Dance Convention
London, ON Canada
July 19, 20, 21, 2018



**Square Dancing - Basic to C2, all under one roof.
Also available – Round Dancing Phase II to VI,
Contras, Lines, Seminars, and more.**

Registration Information	
<p>Convention 2018 c/o Lee Cox 12 Anne Marie Cres. Kincardine, ON N2Z 2M9 Phone – 519-396-7228</p>	<p>Email : convention2018@squaredance.ca</p> <p>Website : www.squaredance.ca/2018</p>

Make The Scene In 2018

A couple is at the airport in Phoenix, Arizona, awaiting their flight dressed in heavy boots, long parkas, scarves and mittens, ready to head home to the Canadian winter. An older American couple standing nearby is intrigued by their manner of dress. The wife says to her husband, "Look at that couple. I wonder where they're from?" He replies, "How would I know?" She answers, "You could go ask them." He says, "I really don't care. You want to know, you ask them." So she walks over to them and says, "Excuse me. I'm noticing the way you're dressed and wonder where you're from?" The Canadian farmer replies, "Saskatoon, Saskatchewan." She returns to her husband who asks, "So, where are they from?" She replies, "I don't know. They don't speak English!"



Alberta Convention Newsletters, Details on Accommodations,
 OR to Register for the 50TH ALBERTA DANCE CONVENTION
 Trail-in August 31, September 1 -3, 2018, Lacombe
 GO TO www.squaredance.ab.ca



ASRDF 50th Convention is fast approaching. Please help if you can!

Do you have photos, articles, square dance clothing, unique badges, or any other memorabilia dating back to the early days of ASRDF? If so, we need your help! We also would like to contact dancers who might have attended the first convention in 1969.

Please contact Helen Lowther at waylow@telusplanet.net, 780-672-5669 if you can help.

NEWSLETTER #2
APRIL 13, 2018
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Pg 2 General Information
Pg 3 Places to Stay

Plans are quickly coming together for the 50th Annual ASRDF Convention in Lacombe on the Labour Day weekend in September.

The draw for the first Early Bird Prize (for registrations received by Feb 28) was made on Mar 18 and won by Bruce Nelson of Sherwood Park. The second draw, for all registrations received by May 31, will be made on Jun 10. No photo is available yet!

What a wonderful sight it would be to have a banner from every Alberta club in Saturday morning's Banner Parade! Please plan to bring your banner to this "once in a lifetime event."

LEADERS
 PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR NAME TO BE ON THE PROGRAM IS APR 30. AFTER YOU SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY THE PROGRAM CHAIR.

Silent Auction
 The Silent Auction will be a feature once again. Please give your contributions to any Convention Committee member or bring them to Convention.

Black and Gold Gala
 Saturday's Theme Night will feature Black & Gold in recognition of our 50th celebration. Theme dress is optional, but encouraged.

WHERE TO STAY

Featured Accommodations:

Best Western Plus (Booking Code ABSQUAR)

4801 63 St. Lacombe AB T4L 0B7

403-782-3535 bestwestern.com

Greenway Inn (Booking Code 2734)

5402 HWY 2A, Lacombe, AB

403-782-7826 or 1-877-889-8877 greenwayinn.ab.ca

Other Accommodations:

Elizabeth View Bed & Breakfast

37 Wildrose Street, Rosedale Valley, Lacombe T4L 1Y4

403-782-3407 elizabethview.ca

50th Avenue House Bed & Breakfast

5425 50 Avenue, Lacombe AB T45L 1N5

Near Lacombe:

Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham (11 km)

6021 Parkwood Road, Blackfalds TOM OJO

1-800-337-0050

Numerous Hotels in Red Deer – Search online “Red Deer Hotels”

Featured Campgrounds

Michener Park Campground (Power)

HWY 12, Lacombe 403-782-2268 after May 1

LA Vintage Machine Club Grounds (grass, no services)

Junction of C & E Trail and 58 St. Lacombe \$7/unit/night

Available Friday morning

NW Arena Parking Lot (paved, no services)

53 St & 55 Ave, Lacombe



Available Friday afternoon at 2:30 pm \$7/unit/night

NO OVERNIGHT RV PARKING ALLOWED IN THE LMC PARKING LOT

LIST OF ALBERTA CAMPOUTS 2018

-  **May18 - 21** **Torrington Hall, Torrington**
Wandering Squares MAINSTREAM
MC: Allan & Carola Ellis, Spruce Grove and Guest Callers
Contact: Terry & Joan Boyd 780-679-0152 or
Al & Carol Moody 403-256-8738
-  **May18 - 21** **Holiday Ranch, Spruce View**
ADVANCED (A2)
Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ
Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098
-  **May 25 - 27** **Oklahoma Hall (near Red Deer)**
Red Deer Club MAINSTREAM
Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ
Contact: Eugene & Eileen Styba 403-342-1509
-  **June 1 – 3** **Wilton Park Hall (near Calmar)**
Country Sunshiners Club, Edmonton MAINSTREAM
Callers: Gary Smith, Whitecourt & Shane Lieber, Edmonton
Contact: Dwayne & Marian Jensen 780-462-2018
-  **June 1 – 3** **Sunnyslope Hall (near Torrington)**
Dots & Dashers Club, Calgary MAINSTREAM
Caller: Tom & Maureen Dakers, Calgary
Contact: Al & Carol Moody 403-256-8738
-  **June 11 - 14** **Lone Ridge Hall (near Pigeon Lake)**
CALLERS COLLEGE needs Experienced Dancers to help during daytime sessions. Dry camping on site.
Instructors: Joe Kromer, Germany; Gary Winter, Sherwood Park; Jerry Jestin, Yuma, AZ
Contact: jerry@jerryjestin.com
-  **June 15 - 17** **Everdell Hall, Rocky Mtn. House**
Whirlaways Club, Rocky Mountain House MAINSTREAM
Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ
Contact: Dave Christiansen 403-845-5490
-  **June 22 - 24** **Holiday Ranch, Spruce View**
EASY INTERMEDIATE - INTERMEDIATE PLUS CLOGGING
Cuer: Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ
Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098
-  **June 22 - 24** **Sunnybrook Hall, (west of Calmar)**
Wandering Squares Club MAINSTREAM
MC: Glen & Audrey Eliasson, Edmonton and Guest Callers
Contact: Terry & Joan Boyd 780-679-0152 or
Al & Carol Moody 403-256-8738
-  **July 6 -8** **Holiday Ranch, Spruce View**
PLUS WEEKEND
Callers: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ and
Gary & Trish Winter, Sherwood Park
Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098
-  **July 13 - 15** **Holiday Ranch, Spruce View**
SUPER MAINSTREAM (Dance By Definition)
Caller: Jerry & Janice Jestin, Yuma, AZ and
Contact: Ida Murray 403-347-8098
-  **July 20 - 22** **Sandholm Hall (near Thorsby)**
Sandholm Crossroads Club MAINSTREAM
Caller Dave & Doreen Kurney, Millet
Cuer: Mary & Ron Milton, Strathmore
Contact: Dave 780-387-4927
-  **August 3 & 4** **Westmount School, Strathmore**
Wheatland Whirlers Club, Strathmore MAINSTREAM
Caller: Dave & Claudia Littlefair, Strathmore and
Gary & Eileen Smith, Whitecourt
Note: Evening Dances Only. Dry Camping at School. Rodeo in town.
Contact: Ian & Linda Nyeste 403-936-5225
-  **August 10 – 12** **Torrington Hall, Torrington**
Olds Calico Capers Club MAINSTREAM
Callers: Rick & Kathy Utter, Moyie Springs, Idaho
Contact: Marvin & Donna Manz 403-556-3102
-  **August 10 - 12** **Round Hill Hall, Round Hill**
Rose City Club MAINSTREAM
Callers: Allan & Olive Zwierschke, Holden and
Glen & Audrey Eliasson, Edmonton
Contact: Bernie von Tettenborn 780-672-6976
-  **August 31 – Trail-in Dance**
September 1 – 3 **Alberta Convention, Lacombe**
MULTI LEVEL SQUARES & ROUNDS
Multiple Callers and Cuers from In and Outside of Alberta
Contact: www.squaredance.ab.ca

OUTSIDE ALBERTA

-  **July 19 – 21** **National Convention, London, ON**
MULTI LEVEL SQUARES, ROUNDS & MORE
Multiple Callers and Cuers from In and Outside of Canada
Contact: www.squaredance.ca/2018
-  **August 8 – 11** **Peachfest, Penticton, BC**
MULTI LEVEL SQUARES & ROUNDS
Multiple Callers and Cuers from In and Outside of Alberta
Contact: 250-493-4248 or email: reanderson@shaw.ca

FOR POSTERS ON ALBERTA'S SUMMER DANCES AND CAMPOUTS GO TO:

www.squaredance.ab.ca/summerdancing

FOR COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF DANCES IN AND OUTSIDE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA GO TO:

www.wellroundedsquare.com April 2018 Issue