



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.



### POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE? - by Editor Claudia Littlefair

At a conference, a dance group played a game called "Go Viral". First one person was secretly dubbed the "negative inspector general" and had to "infect" other people with negativity by scowling. Once someone was infected, he or she had to infect three others by scowling. At the end of the game, the group was asked to identify the source of negativity, which was easy to do.

Then the game was replayed, but reversed. One person was secretly dubbed the "positive inspector general". Instead of scowling and infecting people with negativity, that person smiled and infected people with joy. The problem? At the end of the game, nobody knew where the joy came from; it was hard to pinpoint the source of happiness.

The point? Bring the "positive inspector general" to your dance! If there is positive energy, people will come, and people will return! This is especially important at our summer dances where newly graduated dancers are trying their best to remember and dance the mountain of calls and information that they've gathered during the year. To complicate things even further, they are hearing and dancing to other callers – often for the first time, and are squaring up with dancers they don't know. It can be overwhelming.

**It always surprises me to hear experienced dancers complain about "these new dancers" and their lack of skills.** Keep complaining, keep giving dirty looks, and they won't be coming back. Can we really afford that? Is there an alternative? You bet! Be positive! Help them, encourage them, smile at them, give them gentle guidance, and give them hope that through repetition (which can only be gained by coming to dances) that they will get better. When something goes well, acknowledge and celebrate with them. **Every person in the square is valuable - without each person we have no square.**

### NORTH SHORE SQUARES - STARTING A NEW SQUARE DANCE CLUB

**- By Bruce Holmes - A personal narrative, because those make the best stories**

**Source: CALLERLAB Knowledge Base.** *Preamble: Bruce Holmes is the caller for a new club in Evanston, ILL called North Shore Squares, which at the time of this writing has been in operation for about 18 months and now has 50+ members. This story is an inspiring personal narrative that charts his journey through the process of using the Sustainable Square Dance (SSD) system as a tool to dig their club out of an all-too-common hole. All the clubs in the area danced Plus or beyond and you can't realistically take the average recruit from nothing to Plus in a dance season. Result: at most one student intake a year, sparse student numbers, and heavy attrition. Club membership was falling. Along the way, the group faced all the usual hurdles: resistance to change, demoralization, lack of resources, reluctance to do the hard work. Bruce's narrative takes you through how they stick-handled their way through the obstacles and grew their club.*

**Editor's Note: The following are excerpts of what Bruce did to market his first classes and the results.**

**For the entire article go to: <http://callerlabknowledge.org/?tag=starting-a-club>**

I scheduled three classes to start in September, each with an intro party. I figured at least one of the classes was bound to get cancelled. But at least one of them would happen. I created a flyer and put up fifty of them. For the flyer I needed a picture. I wanted a picture of relatively young people square dancing. Except I didn't want the square dance outfits. I looked for hours on the web and finally found a picture by Brian Elmer of some dancers up in Canada. The background had some petticoats, but the foreground was better. And I'll admit to doing a little photoshop on the background.

I felt the flyer needed to break down some stereotypes to even get them in the door. So the text read:

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**"Today's Square Dance - It's not what you think it is.**

*"It's teamwork. You're working a real-time puzzle with seven other people.*

*And when you nail the outcome, it's really quite exhilarating."*

Today's Square Dancing is not heehaw music, frilly clothes or cowboy shirts. It's not even dancing. (There's no artsy self-expression involved.) It's just walking to music. It's a little like football, except without the concussions. You've got formations. You've got a team around you. You've got plays sent in by the caller. The challenge is, can you run your route successfully? Now granted, the team is coed. But that's a feature. If you enjoyed geometry in high school, you'll get a kick out of this stuff. The music you walk to ranges from the Beatles to modern hits. Today's Square Dancing is great exercise for the body and brain. You'll walk several miles a night, and your mind will be challenged."

Obviously, with both the picture and the text I was trying to appeal to the guys. And I was asking for what I wanted. People who enjoyed challenges and had certain mental aptitudes. Later Roger Peterson was able to take a picture with my own dancers that I liked. But the background in the picture is less than ideal. Getting great pictures of people square dancing is just plain difficult.

**The intro parties had about 12 or 16 people each.** When they showed up they found my partner and I dressed in normal clothing. The first music they heard was EDM (Electronic Dance Music). It's got a good beat and some of it's quite nice. I don't dislike country music, but I don't use any of it at the intro parties. I'm trying to dispel a stereotype. I also don't teach DoSaDo at the intro parties. I don't want them to think they know square dancing.

**I've figured out something since then. Not having angels may have helped.** Often the angels at our clubs are in their seventies or eighties. But when people in their forties or fifties show up, the potential students may feel the activity is only meant for older people. Thus they don't take the idea of joining the class seriously. I'm 70. But there's only one of me, and I'm on the athletic side. And as the teacher, somehow my age hasn't doomed the classes.

One park district cancelled its class a week before the scheduled start date because only one person had signed up. My experience since then is that most people don't sign up until that last minute, so perhaps they jumped the gun. The other classes both happened with seven or eight people. I had a head mic that I had left over from my days as a singer songwriter. That allowed me to call from the square. So seven students was not a problem. **If you have two classes a semester and two semesters a year, you can have maybe 30 graduates by the end of a year. By the summer of that first year I sent out an email asking if people wanted to start a club. By September we had 28 people signed up. By the following summer (2018) we were above 50 members and one of the students was now a caller.**

**The two classes in the fall of 2018 have put our numbers to about 70 members. From now on I foresee being able to add at least 30 members a year.**

**...Why did I succeed?** It's not because I have a special skill set. I'm smart, can crack a joke and I'd like to think I'm a good teacher. Plus I have that background in music, and that truly helps when it comes to the singing calls. But I wasn't an accomplished caller. I had only been calling for a few years, and that's not ideal. So I was not the best possible candidate for doing this. Except it worked.

Wait, there's something else I think I do well. **I let people contribute from the floor. I let the students help each other at the breaks. I let the angels teach.** Sure I listen in and correct when needed. But corrections are so rarely needed. The more advanced dancers will even hold weekend practice sessions which fosters friendships while providing more floor time. I'd like to think the students who lead such sessions are becoming more invested in square dancing and might even be on their way to becoming callers. **I don't insist that I'm the only one capable of passing on the information. So I've ended up with a very involved club.** Everybody pitching in and helping out the students.

**Today's Square Dance**  
It's not what you think it is



Today's Square Dancing is not heehaw music, frilly clothes or cowboy shirts. It's not even dancing. (There's no artsy self-expression involved.) It's just walking to music. It's a little like football, except without the concussions. You've got formations. You've got a team around you. You've got plays sent in by the caller. The challenge is, can you run your route successfully?

"It's teamwork. You're working a real-time puzzle with seven other people. And when you nail the outcome, it's really quite exhilarating."

Now granted, the team is coed. But that's a feature. If you enjoyed geometry in high school, you'll get a kick out of this stuff.

The music you walk to ranges from the Beatles to modern hits. Today's Square Dancing is great exercise for the body and brain. You'll walk several miles a night, and your mind will be challenged.

**Pure Fun**

**Sunday, December 2 2:00 to 3:30 pm**  
Wilmette Community Recreation Center  
3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette

**Tuesday, December 18 7:30 to 9:00 pm**  
Wilmette Community Recreation Center  
3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette

**Wilmette Park District**  
Classes begin Monday, January 7  
7:30 - 9:30, 3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette

**Fast & Challenging**

**Friday, December 28 6:45 to 8:30 pm**  
Evansville Civic Center  
2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston

**Tuesday, December 18 7:30 to 9:00 pm**  
Oakton Community Center  
4701 Oakton Street, Skokie

**Skokie Park District**  
Classes begin Wednesday, January 16  
7:00 - 9:00 pm, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie

For more information: [NorthShoreSquares.com](http://NorthShoreSquares.com)  
To participate you must be able to sustain a fast walking pace.  
No dress code. No experience needed. No partner required.

I will also admit to getting lucky. The talent and organizational abilities I've discovered within the club have surprised me. We've created videos of the calls which we've made available online. We've created booklets showing the calls and distribute these as the students begin lessons. We have flashcards we pass out. We have remarkable people handling the intro parties, lessons, dances and club events (we're having a private party with chili and dancing on an afternoon later this month; the annual picnic, you get the idea). I really do not believe I was essential to our success. **I succeeded because I avoided the negatives, and because the positives are enormous. Square dancing shouldn't be in decline.**

### KELLY'S KORNER - by Kelly Thompson

*Kelly started square dancing in 2016 after being coerced by his sister. He admits that he would have never walked into the club on his own. He has since found a whole new way of looking at life, a whack of new friends and personal confidence that didn't exist before. Kelly enjoys writing and shares some of his new found thoughts.*



### The Most Important Square Dance Move

**What is the most important square dance move?** Some might say it is the allemande left, others might say it is the promenade or even maybe the circle to the left. Some might say the swing is most important, but it is my opinion the most important move is the call to join hands. **It is though not the call to circle left that follows, but it is the call to square up that follows the "Join Hands" that I am referring to.**

Some have laughed as I have sometimes stood alone at the square with my hand out waiting for someone to come along. I was taught that for a man to stand in such a pose when squaring up, that a lady will show up (which is partially true excepting those times a man dressed as a woman could take my hand or a certain caller dressed as a bride might become a partner). I think though the most surprising was when a beginner male dancer took my hand, complemented me on how well I could swing him, and took on the presidency of the club because no one else would take the job.

**I have learned that without the woman, without the caller or without the president, square dancing would be nothing, and my experience in the last four years tells me that without square dancing, I would be nothing as well. That is just how important I think the call to join hands actually is.**

As a single my sister practically dragged me into square dancing. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, or what square dancing could be good for. My first night of square dance I had the privilege to swing a man dressed in a crinoline. I honestly do not think that experience is what made me come back the following week. My sister had to remind me to come, certainly for a few weeks, because every day had been like all others, and I actually did not know what day of the week it was at that time, but that wasn't what brought me back that following week.

As we squared up for the first time, a beautiful lady took what looked like my greasy hand, and we circled to the left. It wasn't grease it was spray foam insulation that doesn't wash, but her hand connected directly to my heart. **For the first time in many years I actually felt life where it hadn't been for a long time.** That brief experience kept me secretly counting the seconds to the next Wednesday night.

It is my thinking that as I walk across the dance hall to extend my hand to a lady, there is an appreciation to have been asked to dance. I find as well for myself a bit of gratification in being accepted as she takes my hand to walk to the square.

**We all have our reasons to square dance; it is in the contact with people through square dancing that we gain from it.** The most important move is the one before all else. You can practice holding hands at home, on the beach, on the bus or about anywhere else but it starts with the call, the first move - "join hands" is the most important call.

Come one and all, join our fun,  
Join those hands, let us be one.  
Family and friends let's dance to song.  
Make new memories to take along.

As I look back I can plainly see  
It was no accident, you came with me.  
"Join hands" such a powerful call.  
It beckons us to fill the hall.

## **SQUARE DANCE CHALLENGE ON CTV'S "AMAZING RACE CANADA"**

### **AIRS AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019!**

*Editor's Note: Thank you Barbara Muirhead from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for sharing this exciting news! Read the following President's Message by Eldon & Carolyn Neudorf, from the April 2019 issue of Saskatoon's Hub City Square & Round Dance Association "Square News", and tune in to this episode on CTV!*

"Hi Everyone! This is a different kind of President's report this time because we have exciting news to share with you! **Eldon & I, along with 16 of our association square dancers will be on National TV this summer!**

Yup, we spent two very busy days (May 4 & 5) doing taping for 'The Amazing Race Canada Episode Six'. The number one rated show in Canada! National TV!

When I told my Mom we were going to be on the show she said "Do you know some of the things they have to do on that show? Are you sure you can do that?!" ...Oh Mom...ha ha

I'll clarify our participation in the show before you picture Eldon or I climbing our way to the top of an 80 foot pole using boot cleats and a strap. Or the square dancers lining up to eat bugs. Yuck!

**This process started in February and we found out near the end of April they had chosen us to be one of the Challenges.** A couple months of meetings with a local media company representative and a show producer, them coming to watch Eldon call and members dancing at our February meeting afternoon workshop, us doing a demonstration for them and three of the Executive Producers, back & forth emails, clarification of what they want from us, their changing minds, more changes, the last change they did was on the actual day of taping. (That was a good change). So, needless to say it was a bit frustrating and somewhat stressful but at the same time so exciting! Also, when we were done it was a great feeling.

**We were stationed at LeChapetre County near St Denis, where the teams chose whether to take the Square Dance Challenge or the Maze Challenge (the maze is on site).**

**The Square Dance Challenge involved one of the team members memorizing a 50 second square dance sequence while the other team member learned to dance.** Eldon & one square of dancers (Bruno Schwark, Helen Hails, Vera Beck, Rick Letkeman, Darleen Pratt, David Minifie and Tom & Brenda Sibley) were in one building where he was to call this sequence over and over, while the team member doing the calling watched, listened and learned. Meanwhile, the other team member watched the dancers, then joined in and learned the dance moves.

Once they were confident to try this, each team came to the saloon where I and one square of dancers (Joan & Bill Vanderloos, George & Carol Rathgeber, Bill & Elaine Collins and Larry & Fran Saggs) waited for them. The caller would call to this set of dancers while their partner would dance in the square. One of the show's Executive producers and I would watch to see if they did it correctly. If they completed the challenge then the producer would say they passed, give me the next clue and I got to hand it to them.

**And that's all they will let us tell you.**

We are not sure of the date this will air, but they believe the series will start right after the July long weekend although that had not yet been confirmed. **(Note to Readers: date is confirmed for Tuesday, August 6, 2019).** We were assured they would let us know when it will air "in case we wanted to watch it". Either way, I'm sure we will be watching the entire series just to see how the teams we met did on the previous shows. So likely in the second week of August, tune to CTV's The Amazing Race Canada!

We hope you all have a very safe, healthy, sun filled summer. Enjoy the dance weekends you partake in over the next few months, the vacations, the lake trips and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Your President Couple,  
Eldon & Carolyn Neudorf

It's always hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they're always taking things literally.



## 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 square 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.*

**Whenever I venture out, there's always a chance something may go awry when it comes to finding a chair at my destination.** Whether it's a community hall, restaurant, someone's home or even a doctor's office, most people are very thoughtful and considerate in assisting me to find a chair.

**Restaurants are one of the more controversial places.** There are booths, tables for two or four or more and then there's the combo of both chairs and a booth. The simplest way to orient me is to put my hand on the corner of a table and describe whether or not to slide to my left on a booth or put my hand on the back of the chair and go to the right. Whichever is applicable, it's not too difficult to comprehend from this point. A group of us had reserved a table at this restaurant and they suggested that I go to my left and scoot all the way down to the other end of the bench. My curiosity got the best of me so I inquired, "How far down do you want me to go?" I was informed that it was a large booth that could accommodate the whole group of us. No problem here, I started to scoot, scoot and scoot some more until, "Oh No!" This can't be happening! The bench did not go around the bend and therefore I made the most beautiful launch into the abyss. What a superb landing! The manager came dashing over to inspect the commotion. Totally embarrassed, I assured him that all was well and I convincingly tried to tell him, "Honestly, I don't do this on a regular basis!" Nobody mentioned anything about the booth coming to an abrupt end. These are little things that people aren't aware of. Solution: ask more questions.

**Not too long ago I was at someone's home** and of course not being familiar with the surroundings, I always wait till someone directs me to the proper area. The normal formalities took place and then I was led into the living room by a friend and she put my hand on the arm of the chesterfield. She told me the couch was on my right and suggested that I have a seat. So I proceeded to find the edge of the cushion. While there was no cushion to be found, my hand was discovering a comfortable pair of knees! I immediately apologized but there was no response, no sudden movement or any unforeseen action. Everyone must have been aware of this little scheme - the whole room burst out in laughter. When I was told this man had moved and I could have a seat, I was a bit leery, then I finally went for the gusto. He had definitely moved. Now that's a clever man! 'When I look around, I also feel around' Dodging out of the way is a smart thing to do.

**When it comes to a medical office, there is no regular routine.** It seems like the staff behind the desk have little experience in assisting a visually impaired person. More often than not, they have backed me up and inform me the chair is directly behind me so, as usual, I feel for the edge to have a seat. Murphy's Law always seems to kick in. The back of the chair will be on my left or right side. That's when my mind gets in gear. I discreetly try to adjust to face the correct way. I do have a lot of fun in these places.

**Now when it comes to dances, especially Square Dancing, I sure have been presented with a variety of options.** I have been assisted to back up on to a chair only to find myself sitting on someone's solid cushion-like knees. Now that's what you call a good sport! Who needs someone sitting on their lap?

**It's a bit unnerving when I'm being backed up to have a seat and my partner doesn't release my hands to check it out.** One time when he thought I was lined up properly, I attempted to sit down only to find myself falling in between two chairs, which nearly put me on the floor. Another lesson learned. Whoever is guiding me cannot judge exactly where I'm standing especially when I'm wearing a crinoline. Again, any help offered is very much appreciated but I'm always aware of certain precautions to avoid such a fiasco. Could this be another version of 'falling through the cracks?' Regardless, life does go on and I'll be ready for the next challenge. **Until next time, have a wonderful summer!**

I just read a book about Stockholm Syndrome. It was pretty bad at first, but by the end I kind of liked it. Did you hear about the psychic midget at that robbed a bank? Now there's a small medium at large. There are two fish in a tank. One turns to the other and says, "Do you know how to drive this thing?"

## Changing Times: The Future of Yellow Rock

- by Ed Foote (reprinted from American Square Dance Magazine)

In recent years we have seen a sharp rise in sexual harassment issues in the news, including confidential agreements, high profile trials, and resignations of people in prominent positions. What is and is not sexual harassment is a subject of widespread debate.

Yellow Rock, including variations with other names, has been part of the square dance activity for over 50 years.

This name for hugging was invented by a caller calling at Yellow Rock Barn outside of Kansas City, MO. For decades people considered Yellow Rock harmless fun and a way to increase friendliness in square dancing. But in these changing times of sexual harassment focus, it may be time to take another look at Yellow Rock.



The Board of Governors (25 callers) of CALLERLAB did so at a recent annual convention, where considerable time was devoted to a discussion of the issue. Male members, who comprise a majority of the Board, were genuinely concerned about whether they could be accused of sexual harassment if they called Yellow Rock. In addition, they worried whether they

could be accused if they themselves gave someone a Yellow Rock.



Female members of the Board described their experiences of appropriate and inappropriate Yellow Rocks that they had received over the years. It quickly became clear that there is a fine line between what is appropriate and what is inappropriate hugging, and, that this line is different for each person - both the giver and the receiver of the Yellow Rock.

Male callers were concerned that they might be reported to CALLERLAB for an ethics violation if they call Yellow Rock, even though there is currently nothing specific on this topic in the CALLERLAB Code of Ethics. They were also concerned they might be reported if they gave a Yellow Rock to someone -- reported either by the person who received the Yellow Rock or by someone viewing the action from across the room.

**More On Yellow Rock.** It was suggested that callers take a poll of their home clubs, to see if people liked Yellow Rock. But it was quickly noted that unless this was a secret ballot, no one would vote against it because such a stand could cause embarrassment and be perceived as unfriendly. Also, if just one person voted against Yellow Rock, that person might possibly claim sexual harassment in the future, based on that person's definition of what is appropriate.

One caller said he only calls Yellow Rock with the original partner. This was fine decades ago, when most couples were married. But he recognized that in this day of so many singles dancing with various people during a dance, this is probably no longer appropriate.

The story was told of a well-known caller who started a large beginner's class. This caller recognized that the personal space of new dancers was much larger than those who have danced a long time, so he intentionally never showed Yellow Rock until later in class. This caller had to miss the third night of class, and the replacement caller showed Yellow Rock. The next week half the class had quit, because their personal space had been invaded in a manner unacceptable to them.

**Bottom line.** The Board took no vote on this issue, and callers are free to call Yellow Rock as they wish. But many callers on the Board said they had already stopped calling Yellow Rock, and others said they planned to do so. They all agreed it was just a no-win situation for them.

So, while Yellow Rock will not be going away, it is likely to be used far less in the future. When you notice that the use of Yellow Rock is in decline, remember the observations made here and you will know the reason.

**A note to callers.** At the meeting, male callers asked the female callers what to do if a woman walks up to you with arms outstretched, obviously wanting a Yellow Rock. This can happen at any time during a dance, and especially in a "thank you line" at the end of a dance. If the male caller steps forward too far (in the mind of the woman), it could be considered an aggressive move. But if he does not move at all, this could be considered unfriendly. What to do?

Answer from the female callers: The male caller should turn his body sideways 90 degrees - this will cause the woman to turn her body to face the same direction as the man. Then the man puts his arm around the woman's back and gives a half hug. The female callers said this was a perfect solution. Likewise, if a male approaches a female caller with arms outstretched, the female caller can turn sideways 90 degrees and give a half hug. This keeps her in control of the situation

## 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. 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. For additional information, contact Paul Moore at paulmoore@wildblue.net or look for this 600+ page book on Amazon.ca (\$26).*

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXHIBITIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

**What makes a good square dance demonstration?** Many things. Among them good variety, contagious happiness, pleasing costumes. Should demonstration dancers necessarily be children? Certainly not. When a majority of demonstration groups is made up of teens and pre-teens, it is easy to give the impression that square dancing belongs only to those under the age of twenty years. And the same holds for senior citizens. A demonstration group should not be made up of all septuagenarians. This is, of course, not true, and if we are not careful an over-emphasis on the young people (or the old folk) in dancing may give an impression that the activity is not for them.

No, the best demonstrations we've ever seen have been groups of the ageless individuals who make up the greatest portion of the square dancing population. They have been able to dance well, but when they goof they allow this to be just as natural as all the rest of the demonstration.

**At the same time, demonstrations should not be amateurish or even small scale. But neither are they filled with complicated choreography and fancy matching outfits.** The goal is to show the non-dancing world what square dancing is. There have been some really big demonstrations that did not attempt to be flashy or slick.

**An exhibition, on the other hand, is a carefully choreographed and rehearsed performance that is designed to entertain the viewers.** 'Pappy' Shaw's Cheyenne Mountain Dancers did exhibitions for large crowds. They went through a selection of dances from different eras and wore the proper costumes for each era. Then, oftentimes, the kids turned into just dancers or demonstrators. For example, when the kids were in the Los Angeles area, they did two shows for large audiences, but on the days between the shows they helped 'Pappy' teach the local caller and dancer associations what dancing was all about.

**One of the exhibitions groups seemed to have the motto, "Anything you can do, I can do higher."** This parody of a familiar Broadway tune seemed to sum up the enthusiasm of the 18 young members of the Mayfield, Ohio, Unicycle Square Dance Team. These two squares, and two alternates, make up what must be the world's most unusual square dance exhibition group. Not only can they "dance" virtually everything that is danced under normal conditions, they perform their act several feet off the ground on unicycles.



Perhaps a little closer to the ground are square dancers who dance on ice skates or roller skates. Groups have formed all over the country just for the fun of dancing on blades or wheels. But not to be outdone by those tiny wheels on unicycles or roller skates are members of the Farmall Promenade. **Four seated couples maneuver vintage tractors into daisy chains and do-sa-dos in front of a live audience.** Laurie Mason-Schmidt is the caller for Farmall Promenade, the most famous group of square dancing tractors. "We all have real



jobs, believe it or not," she says during a show. "We farm. I teach school. And some days we dress up a little strangely and get on our tractors and square dance."

**Over the border in Edmonton, Alberta, Jimmy Lindsay calls for a colorful group that exhibits square dancing on horseback** for various Canadian functions and on television.



Perhaps the most daring and unique of all square dance demonstrations was performed by the United States Army. **The Helicopter Square Dance Team was founded in the 1950's to help promote interest in the helicopter, the US Army's "new flying machine".** A team of expert pilots were assembled to perform these



incredible dancing stunts. "Boy" helicopters were dressed in straw hats and corn-cob pipes and "Girl" helicopters were dressed in skirts and long hair made from mops. This team's flagship performance at the 1956 National Air Show in Oklahoma wowed spectators as they danced their way into audience's hearts – and into aviation history!

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Al said, "I'd like them to say, "Look, he's moving!"

## ALBERTA SQUARE DANCE JAMBOREE

Friday, August 23 to Monday, August 26, 2019

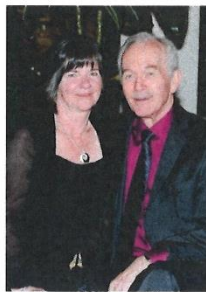
### CALLERS & CUER



**Jerry Jestin**  
Gleniffer Lake, AB



**Gary Winter**  
Sherwood Park, AB



**Mary & Bruce Nelson**  
Sherwood Park, AB



**Tim Crawford**  
Burlington, ON

#### Before June 30, 2019

Full Weekend - \$50/person

Day Session - \$30/person

Individual Sessions - \$15/person

#### After June 30, 2019

Full Weekend - \$60/person

Day Session - \$30/person

Individual Sessions - \$15/person

**The Weekend Program includes Mainstream, Plus and Rounds throughout the day, some A sessions.** All dances and workshops are at the level of the hall. Free caller & cuer workshops. Accommodations: Southfort Inn, 140 Town Crest Road, Fort Sask. Dry camping available at the Dow Centennial Centre. \$10 per night/unit.

**Information and Registration online:** [www.albertajamboree.com](http://www.albertajamboree.com) **Email:** [albertajamboree@gmail.com](mailto:albertajamboree@gmail.com)

## A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

The Dow Centennial Centre, 8700 – 84 Street, Fort Saskatchewan, AB



## ANNUAL ALBERTA DANCE CONVENTION

Lacombe, August 31 - September 2, 2019

### Help Needed!

- **REQUEST FOR SINGERS:** Minister and square dancer, David Gilchrist has been asked to lead our Church service on Sunday morning. He has a special version of The Lord's Prayer which he would like to use as an "anthem", if he can find a group of singers. If you would like to volunteer, please email David at [gilx@shaw.ca](mailto:gilx@shaw.ca), and he will email you a copy of the music in advance. He anticipates one practice – probably at supper time on Saturday.
- **REGISTRATION DESK:** If you are able to help out here please contact Loretta Turton at 403-845-3579.
- **SILENT AUCTION ITEMS:** To enable us to have a successful fun time of trying to outbid one another, we need some stunning donations. If you have some amazing Silent Auction items call Dorothy Aberle 403-309-9240 or Loretta Turton at 403-845-3579.
- **GENTLY USED CLOTHING:** There is a limited pre-arranged space for people to sell gently used square dance clothes. If you are interested please contact Norm Demeule at 780-672-7247 or email [norretta@telus.net](mailto:norretta@telus.net).

### Items of Interest

- **STARLITE SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FASHIONS** has closed as a business but Beverley & Charlie Moore will have the remaining inventory for sale at deep discounts at **Alberta Convention in Lacombe**. There is still a selection of ladies shoes, blouses, skirts and some other items. There will be no GST and all sales are final. Payment must be by cash or cheque.
- **QUESTIONNAIRE/SURVEY:** This year a very short questionnaire/survey will be part of the registration bag. Complete and hand it in at the end of the convention in a box outside the big hall. We want to have the best Conventions!
- **SATURDAY NIGHT THEME:** It's a "BLACK & WHITE" dance so check out your closet and dress your best!
- **DROP-IN SESSION ON ADVERTISING & MARKETING:** Scheduled for 5:15-6pm, Saturday evening at the Round Dance Hall, Kozy Korner.
- **THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION COMMITTEE:** Norman & Loretta Demeule, Chair; Henry Hughes, Vice-Chair; Allan & Loretta Turton, Treasurer & Registration; Sharon & Bill Avison, Secretary; Larry Jeske, Square Dance Program; Cliff Dunn, Round Dance Program; Jacques Fyfe, Facilities & Publicity; Dorothy Aberle & Loretta Turton, Silent Auction & Decorating.



*LACOMBE HAS IT ALL IN 2019*



51st ANNUAL CONVENTION

Lacombe, AB

Aug. 31, Sept. 1, & Sept. 2, 2019

Hosted by the Central Alberta Square  
and Round Dance Association



**Before June 30,  
2019**

Adult - \$60

Youth - \$50

**After June 30, 2019**

Adult - \$65

Youth - \$55

**Lacombe Memorial Centre**  
5214 50 Ave  
and the  
Kozy Korner  
5024 53 St

Celebrate 51 years of Federation with  
a weekend of great dancing, fun,  
fellowship, and fitness, in the  
heartland of Alberta

Dance in air-conditioned comfort on  
tile and laminate floors.

**For Information  
and**

**Registration go to:**

[www.squaredance.ab.ca](http://www.squaredance.ab.ca)

## BC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

### JULY 10 to JULY 14, 2019 at Salmon Arm, BC

Unless otherwise indicated, activities will take place in one of the venues at the Shaw Centre Complex, 2600 10th Ave NE, Salmon Arm. This is the overall program. Please note that times and events may be subject to change.

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

4 pm - Registration Desk Opens at the Shaw Centre  
7 pm - Trail-In Dance Hosted by Salmon Arm Squares

#### THURSDAY, JULY 11

9:30 am - BC Square & Round Dance Federation AGM  
8 am - Golf Tournament at (Club Shuswap)  
10 am - DiVine Wine Tour Afternoon  
1 pm - Workshops and Dances  
2:30 pm - *"It's an Elvis Thing!"* With MC Tyler Wagner.  
Vintage cars on display owned by local collectors.  
6 pm - Opening Ceremonies  
Evening - Dancing at the Individual Venues

#### FRIDAY, JULY 12

10 am - Workshops & Dances  
10 am - Community Introductory Sessions  
Noon - Community Introductory Dancing  
1 pm - Workshops & Dances  
Evening - Dancing at Individual Venues  
Evening - Community Dance

#### SATURDAY, JULY 13

10 am - Workshops & Dances  
10 am - Community Introductory Sessions  
Noon - Community Introductory Dancing  
1 pm - Workshops & Dances  
6 pm - Closing Ceremonies  
Evening - Dancing at the Individual Venues  
9 pm - Main Hall only (all other halls closed)  
9 pm - All Singing Call Mystery Hour

#### SUNDAY, JULY 14

9 am - Trail-Out Dance Hosted by the Westsyde Squares

#### QUICK FACTS

- For the May, 2019 22-page on-line **Newsletter** go to: <https://bcfestival2019.com/wp-content/uploads/BCFestival2019-newletter-May19.pdf>
- July 1st is the last day for discounted pre- registration fees.
- The 3-day festival registration fee from July 2nd up to and at the door is \$75 per person.
- Full days including workshops is \$35 per person. (available at the door only) Individual workshops are not available.
- **Trail-In Dance** on Wednesday, July 10th is \$8/person.
- **Trail-Out Dance** on Sunday, July 14th is \$10/person.
- **Art Show:** Shuswap Artists will be showing, and selling, some of their art works on the Mezza- ninth level of the Shaw Centre, from Thursday through Saturday.
- **Shaw Centre is Eco-Friendly!** Bring your water bottles and fill 'em up! Water will always be available but we kindly request that you bring your own refillable containers. Plastic or waxed cups will not be available at the water stations.
- **Bring your reusable bags!** Salmon Arm is environmentally conscious in respect to plastic bags. The city has banned their use and this bylaw will be in effect when you come to the festival.



# BC FESTIVAL 2019

## JULY 10th - 14th SALMON ARM, BC

[www.bcfestival2019.com](http://www.bcfestival2019.com)

