



# Big Sky News Square Dancing

March Edition | Year 2024 | Big Sky News

## *Announcement*

April 2024 – Spring is here. It is only a short time away from the Montana State Square Dance Festival. It is a good time to get your plans made and registrations in.

There is a change of Editors happening. Dave Hinds has graciously accepted my offer to do the Big Sky News, MontanaSquareDancing.com, and KnotheadJamboree.com. During the transition, we will both be working together to get things posted and up on the sites. You may send information and articles to: [Jim@MontanaSquareDancing.com](mailto:Jim@MontanaSquareDancing.com) -- Jim Fuller

## *Inside This Issue*

### Editor Comments

Jim Fuller shares some thoughts.

Montana State Festival

### Club Listings/Status

- |                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Billings             | Helena     |
| Butte (NEW)          | Lolo       |
| Dillon (NEW)         | Miles City |
| Great Falls          | Plains     |
| Hamilton (Disbanded) |            |

## *Editor Comments*

As April is here, I am hearing about a number of opportunities for the Travel Season. The Montana State Convention is coming up shortly. I have flyers for the Idaho and Colorado State Conventions. They are on the website. Please be sure to contact them ahead of time. The contact can help you with where and when to fit in for the most fun.

Please support the various clubs in the State. They have lessons, dances, special dances, and meetings that all promote the fun of square dancing.

Thank You for letting me do this.

A personal Note: The surgery went well. Roberta and I will be returning to dancing.

Jim Fuller

## GOOD NEWS:

Last Chance Squares in Helena graduated a class. Please see their page for more information.

Butch Suttley reports the clubs in Butte and Dillon are having lessons and having fun.

Billings Groups are excited to be hosting Montana State Festival in 2024 in Billings.

Colorado State Square Dance Association has submitted an intent to bid for the 76th NSDC to be held in Loveland Colorado in June of 2027. I will place information on assisting them in the bid process on the website.

## HOUSEKEEPING:

I hope to hear from all the groups. New dancers are thrilled to know there are other people in other places to dance with.

There are a few groups like Great Falls that I have not heard from. If you know someone from a group that is not reporting, please suggest they contact me. We wish to promote the groups and square dancing in Montana.

## On Going Project:

I will be contacting Callers and Cuers as this gets going. I hope to have an area for information to contact them with links to their websites, etc.

# Montana State Festival 2024 – Billings MT

## Featured Callers



**Tony Oxendine**

Sumter, South Carolina

Tony began square dancing in 1972. In 1985, Tony founded Royal Records. He is an Accredited Caller Coach and an accredited member of CALLERLAB. He has served on CALLERLAB's Board, its Executive Board of Governors, and two terms as Chairman of the Board. In 2000, Tony received CALLERLAB's highest award - The Milestone.



**Hunter Keller**

Billings, Montana

Hunter began dancing in early 2004, picking up a microphone six months later eventually becoming the caller for various Billings clubs. In 2008, Hunter revived the club his grandparents formed, the Checkerboard Squares. Hunter has called in 46 states, over 15 countries and on various square dance vacations. In 2010, he began cueing rounds and cues through phase IV. He is a member of CALLERLAB and is a Royal Records Recording Artist.

## Featured Cuers



**Larry & Susan Sperry**

Billings, Montana

Larry and Susan have been dancing together since their high school years. They began cueing and teaching round dancing in the 1980's and continue to be passionate about the program. They have been featured leaders for many state and regional conventions, including Canada and Hawaii. They belong to Round-A-Lab and have received the 35 year service award. Larry and Susan are also active in the Billings Ballroom Club where dancers have become more interested in the round dance program. They offer many varied programs throughout the dance season including social dance classes. The Sperrys are Resident Round Dance Leaders at Towerpoint Resort in Mesa AZ. They teach and cue six sessions weekly for beginners through phase 5 from November through April. They also teach and cue at Sun City, AZ in the Fall and Winter months. They travel to dance, teach and cue at Festivals and events around the Western US during the summer. Dancing has been a huge part of their lives for many years and has given them much pleasure through their travels around the country. They hope to continue to bring new dancers into the activity for years to come.

**53rd Annual  
Montana State  
Square & Round Dance  
Festival**

**May 24 - 27, 2024**

**Scootback  
to  
Billings**



**Cedar Hall at MetraPark  
308 6th Avenue North  
Billings, Montana**

**Questions:  
Dave Nelson  
YSDC President  
(406) 652-5849 (Leave Message)  
DNels@Bresnan.net**



# Montana State Festival 2024 – Billings MT

## Registration Form

Pre-registration Deadline: May 1, 2024

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s)

Mailing Address

City

State and ZipCode

Phone Number

Email Address

Number of Adults @ \$45 each: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Package**

2 Adults, 2 Youth : \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100 total

**Registration Postmarked after May 1, 2024:**  
Adults \$50 each/Family \$110

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to:  
**Yellowstone Square Dance Council**

Mail registration to:  
**YSDC c/o Suzette Fletcher  
1425 Woodland Trail  
Billings, Montana 59105**

Festival Bar is for weekend package only.  
**NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 1, 2024**

## Entire Event Price

	Couple	Solo	Family
Before May 1	\$90	\$45	\$100
After May 1	\$100	\$50	\$110

## Individual Sessions

(only payable at the door)

	Couple	Solo	Family
Fri. Night	\$20	\$10	\$30
Morning Sessions	\$20	\$10	\$30
Afternoon Sessions	\$20	\$10	\$30
Sat or Sun Evenings	\$30	\$15	\$45



### HOST HOTEL

For reservations, please call  
Best Western Clocktower Inn  
2511 First Ave. N.  
Phone: 406-259-5511 ask for:  
Yellowstone Square Dance Rate  
(Free breakfast included)  
(Booking this hotel helps our weekend)

**DRY CAMPING AVAILABLE AT HALL**

## Program Schedule

### Friday, May 24, 2024

4 PM	RV Parking Check In
4-6 PM	Registration
7-9:30 PM	Trail-In Dance All Caller/All Cuer

### Saturday, May 25, 2024

9:30 -10:30 AM	Easy Level Round Workshop
10:30 - 12 PM	Mainstream Workshop
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Mainstream w/ Rounds
2:30 - 4 PM	Plus Dance w/ Rounds
4 - 4:30 PM	Advanced Session
6:30 - 7 PM	Pre-Rounds
7 - 7:15 PM	Grand March
7:15 - 9:15 PM	Mainstream w/ Rounds
9:15 PM	After Party

### Sunday, May 26, 2024

9:30 -10:30 AM	Phase III+ Round Workshop
10:30 -12 PM	Mainstream w/ Rounds
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Plus Workshop
2:30 - 3:30 PM	Plus Dance
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Advanced Session
4 - 5 PM	State Meeting
7 - 7:30 PM	Pre-Rounds
7:30 - 9:30 PM	Mainstream w/ Rounds

### Monday, May 27, 2024

9 - 11 AM	Trail-Out Dance All Caller/All Cuer
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Updated Festival Information available at:  
**[www.SquareDanceMontana.com](http://www.SquareDanceMontana.com)**

# Montana State Festival 2024 – Billings MT

## Attention Square Dancers

Billings will be hosting the annual Montana State Square and Round Dance Festival on May 24-27 of this year in Cedar Hall at MetraPark in Billings. Some of the activities we will be doing are holding a silent auction and sell raffle tickets for different items to raise money to help pay for the cost of hosting this event. We are asking people to donate items to be put in the auction and/or for the raffle. These items can be anything that you think would be interesting enough that people would bid on or buy raffle tickets for. They can be handmade or purchased, as long they are relatively small so they can fit on a display table. We already have some commitments from dancers but would like a few more. If you have any questions please call Peggy Conard at 406-698-3791 or Brian Davis at 406-696-9862. Thank you so much in advance and we look forward to seeing you on the dance floor!

## Beaverhead Boot Scooters!

In Dillon Mt the new club, the Beaverhead Boot Scooters have been moving along. Butch Suttey is the caller and instructor for lessons. Lessons are on Sunday afternoons. They dance at the at the Senior center in Dillon MT. Please call Butch at 208-503-0551 prior to visiting or attending to verify the dance.

Per Butch Suttey – February 2024



## Mining City Squares

In Butte Mt the new club, the Mining City Squares have been holding lessons on Tuesday Evenings. Square dance lessons provided by caller Butch Suttey at Aldersgate Methodist Church Gym. Please call Butch at 208-503-0551 prior to visiting or attending to verify the dance.

Per Butch Suttey – February 2024

**Mining City  
Square Dance Club**

**Will be offering lessons every  
Tuesday, starting January 9th, 2024  
from 6:30 - 8:00 PM.**

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**  
1621 Thornton Ave., Butte  
*Suggested donation \$5.00*

**Ages 12 and up ALL Welcome**  
Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult

**Come exercise your body, mind, and spirit!**

*FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL or TEXT:*  
**Butch: 208-503-0551 or Faye: 208-553-2727**

*FIND US ON FACEBOOK:*  
**Mining City Square Dance Club**

INSTY-PRINTS BUTTE'S FINEST LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED FULL SERVICE PRINTING AND COPY SHOP 130 W. PARK BUTTE, MONTANA

KBOW 550AM 101.5FM

94.1 FM KOPB Butte, MT

Magic

River

## Great Falls

Really tough going. We've lost so many members that putting together a square is a challenge. We attempted lessons in September and sorry to say was not a success. Still looking for new opportunities and trying to schedule a dance once a month at least. So much still to do.

Thanks

Shalom

Joann

Nothing was received for the March 2024 Newsletter. Hopefully that can be added in April.

# Helena

## Helena Last Chance Squares

The Helena Last Chance Squares graduated 8 new square dancers in March - congratulations, graduates! We are delighted to have the new dancers joining us for regular club dances and are hoping they will all come down to Billings for the state festival. For information on upcoming club dances or lessons, please check out our website at <https://www.helenalastchancesquares.com/>



# Plains

## MONTANA MAVERICKS

### Plains

#### **More dance fun in Plains!**

Montana Mavericks had their March dance on Saturday the 2nd. Adam Christman called and Lorrie Lane cued. We had 3 to 4 brightly colored squares as the theme was Luau, and most everyone wore Hawaiian shirts. The music and decorations were tropical.

Our next dance is April 6th, with Butch Suttty calling and Lorrie Lane cueing. The date our students will be promoted (or graduated) is April 12.

If the weather holds, let's join the fun at the Sr Center!

Any questions contact Darlene at 406-826-8951.

## Billings

Greetings from Billings!

We hope you all had an enjoyable St. Paddy's Day and a safe and blessed Easter. We're enjoying(?) the rapid switches between winter and spring here, but the spring sessions are getting longer and more frequent, so we're pretty sure spring is on its way. Our Spring Dance scheduled for March 23 but the weather forecast didn't sound promising for caller Lynn Strobel's trip from Miles City. But Mother Nature cooperated so he and Judy survived the trip and called to a smallish but energetic crowd which included dancers from Wyoming and South Dakota.

Of course next on the agenda is the State Festival here in Billings May 24-27. Plans are coming together and we're pleased to announce that we're once again coordinating with 4-H in the building next door to offer refreshments and concessions. They'll be selling their wares on Saturday and Sunday and will be offering beverages, breakfast pastries, snacks and lunch plates. Not only will this help dancers avoid the graduation-related traffic congestion, it will also help support 4-H.

Happy dancing and see you soon!

Ann Hindley, reporter

## Lolo

### Solo Stars in Lolo

Solo Stars continues lessons with Butch Suttey at the Lolo Community Center, followed by a Mainstream Dance.

**Friday Lessons: 6:30 - 7:45; Mainstream Dance: 7:45 - 9:00.**

We have **lessons on April 5, 12, & 26**. Our May lessons are scheduled for May 3rd & 17th.

### Looking Ahead & Mark your Calendar!

Our **MOUNTAIN MIXER** is **May 31 - June 1** at the Yellowrock Campground & Dance Center. **Adam Christman** is our caller/cuer for the fun weekend! Please see the Yellowrock Summer Dance Schedule for all details.

Debby for Solo Stars

# Lolo

## SOLO STARS WINTER DANCE SCHEDULE JOIN US FOR SQUARE DANCE FUN LOLO COMMUNITY CENTER 12345 US 93, Lolo, MT

### SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY thru MAY 2024

LESSONS STARTING AT 6:30 – 7:45      DANCE - 7:45 to 9:00  
\$5.00 FOR LESSONS                      -      FULL EVENING \$7.00

January 5<sup>th</sup> - No Lessons (Dance Only at 6:30)

~~January 12<sup>th</sup> - Lessons & Dance Cancelled for bad weather/roads~~

January 26<sup>th</sup> - Lessons & Dance

February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lessons & Dance

February 9<sup>th</sup> - Lessons & Dance

February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Lessons & Dance

~~March 1<sup>st</sup> - Lessons & Dance Cancelled~~

March 8<sup>th</sup> - Lessons & Dance

March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Lessons & Dance

April 5<sup>th</sup> - Lessons & Dance

April 12<sup>th</sup> - Lessons & Dance

April 26<sup>th</sup> - Lessons & Dance

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lessons & Dance

May 17<sup>th</sup> - Lessons & Dance

**CHILDREN UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

**Times subject to change due to weather, etc. Check your e-mail.**

FOR INFO. CALL:

Butch Suttley @ 208-503-0551 or

Tim Casey @ 406-218-8677



The Yellowrock Campground is proud to host the Solo Stars square dance club.

**Mountain Mixer: May 31 - June 1**  
Caller/Cuer: Adam Christman, WA

Friday, May 31

7 - 7:30 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
7:30 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream w/ 1 Round Between tips

Saturday, June 1

10 - 11:00 am ~ Round Dance  
2 - 3:30 ~ Mainstream Sq Dance Wrkshp  
7 - 7:30 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
7:30 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream w/ 1 Round Between tips

**June 21-22**

Caller: Kathy Beans, UT / Cuer: Chuck Weiss, AZ

Friday, June 21

1 - 2:30 pm ~ Round Dance Wrkshp  
6:30 - 7:30 pm ~ Plus Squares  
7:30 - 8 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
8 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream Dance

Saturday, June 22

1 - 2:30 pm ~ Square Dance Wrkshp  
6:30 - 7:30 pm ~ Plus Squares  
7:30 - 8 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
8 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream Dance

**July 12-13**

Caller/Cuer: Craig Abercrombie, OR

Friday, July 12

1 - 2:30 pm ~ Intro to Plus  
6:30 - 7:30 pm ~ Plus Squares  
7:30 - 8 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
8 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream Dance

Saturday, July 13

1 - 2:30 pm ~ Square Dance Wrkshp  
6:30 - 7:30 pm ~ Plus Squares  
7:30 - 8 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
8 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream Dance

**July 17-20**

Caller: Jerry Junck, NE / Cuer: Mike McNees, UT

Wednesday, July 17

7 - 8:30 pm ~  
Party Intro to Square Dancing

Thursday, July 18 - Sat, July 20

1 - 2:30 pm ~ Square Dance Wrkshp  
7 - 7:30 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
7:30 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream Dance

*\*See Prices*

**July 26 - 27**

Caller: Bill Henke, SD / Cuer: Chuck Weiss, AZ

Friday, July 26

1 - 2:30 pm ~ Round Dance Wrkshp  
6:30 - 7:30 pm ~ Plus Squares  
7:30 - 8 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
8 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream Dance

Saturday, July 27

1 - 2:30 pm ~ Square Dance Wrkshp  
6:30 - 7:30 pm ~ Plus Squares  
7:30 - 8 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
8 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream Dance

**Aug 2 - 3**

Caller: Lynn Strobel, MT / Cuer: Larry Sperry, MT

Friday, Aug 2

1 - 2:30 pm ~ Round Dance Wrkshp  
6:30 - 7:30 pm ~ Plus Squares  
7:30 - 8 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
8 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream Dance

Saturday, Aug 3

1 - 2:30 pm ~ Square Dance Wrkshp  
6:30 - 7:30 pm ~ Plus Squares  
7:30 - 8 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
8 - 9:30 pm ~ Mainstream Dance

**Lolo Stomp: Aug 8 - 10**

Callers: Jerry Junck, NE & Lynn Strobel, MT

Cuer: Larry Sperry, MT

Thursday, Aug 8

7:00 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
7:30 - 9:30 pm ~ Plus Dance

Friday & Saturday, Aug 9 - 10

10 - 11:30 am ~ Round Dance Wrkshp  
2 - 3:30 pm ~ Plus Wrkshp  
7 - 7:30 pm ~ Pre-Rounds  
7:30 - 9:30 pm ~ Plus Dance

*\*\*See Prices*

