



Big Sky News Square Dancing

February Edition | Year 2024 | Big Sky News

Announcement

February 2024 – Reminder: This is the month that has Valentines Day in it. Be sure to take care of your Partners and Sweethearts.

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 -- 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 February is here, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation for the support on relaunching the Newsletter and updating information on the Montana Square Dancing site. It is your news that will help everyone have a good time.

As one who has traveled in Montana for business and pleasure, I know that it is great to find things to do and groups to associate with. But it is always wise 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.

Jim Fuller

BAD NEWS:

I received an email in January from Laurie Dunbar that Boots 'n' Calico Club in Hamilton has disbanded.

GOOD NEWS:

Last Chance Squares in Helena will be hosting a ST Patrick's Dance. Please see their page for more information.

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

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

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 Zip Code

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
-----------	--

Updated Festival Information available at:
www.SquareDanceMontana.com

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

SQUARE DANCE

The Boot Scooters



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 100 W. BARK BUTTE MONTANA

KBOW 550AM 101.5FM

94.1 FM KOPR 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 February 2024 Newsletter. Hopefully that can be added in March.



Helena

Helena Last Chance Squares

"Helena Last Chance Squares will hold dances on February 10th and February 24th. Dances are held at the Hamilton Building, Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds. Cost is \$7 per person. Butch Suttley will be calling mainstream and plus, with Glen Tusler cueing rounds. Dances start at 6:30 pm. If you're in town, plan to join us!

Our club has put in a request to hold the Montana State Square and Round Dance Festival in 2026!"

Dance Location: Bill Hamilton Building, 98 West Custer Ave, Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds, Helena, MT

Flyers and registration are available on our website at www.helenalastchancesquares.com

St. Patrick's Dance

March 16, 2024

Sponsored by: Last Chance Squares
Helena, Montana



Location: Bill Hamilton Building
Fairgrounds: 98 West Custer Ave

Caller: Lynn Strobel {Miles City}

Cuer: Glen Tusler {Helena}

Plus - 3:30- 5:00pm
Pot Luck - 5:30-6:30pm
Rounds - 6:30-7:00pm
MS/Plus - 7:00-9:00pm



Cost: \$15 per person. or
\$10 per person for evening only



Plains

MONTANA MAVERICKS

Plains

More dance fun in Plains!

The Mavericks are dancing in Plains **Sat, Feb 3rd, 7pm for Plus, 7:30pm - 9:30 for Mainstream. Adam Christman is calling, Lorrie Lane is cueing. The theme is Dynamic Duo's** - Batman & Robin, Sonny & Cher, etc.

AND, everyone is invited for a **potluck at 5:30pm!**

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

Our class is doing well, we started in November & they are thru the basic program. They will be attending our February dance. Theme will be dynamic duos. Should be a fun one also.

We dance on first Saturdays (thru the dance season – October thru May) at the Sr. Ctr in Plains. It is directly behind the VFW & facing the same direction. We start with plus at 7 & go to Mainstream at 7:30 to 9:30. We also dance 2nd Saturday in September and June. We do NOT dance in July. In August we have our St. Regis Roundup at the St. Regis Community Center on 3rd weekend of August. We have also been having a special anniversary dance on 4th Sunday of September some place different. In 2024 it will again be at the Lonepine Hall in the afternoon.

Any questions contact Darlene at 406-826-8951.

Billings

Greetings from Billings!

First of all we want to say great job on your first issue of the Big Sky News, Jim! Thank you for taking this on. It's so valuable to us on this side of the state as a means of keeping up with dance activity elsewhere in Montana.

The Checkerboard Squares new dancer program registration and introductory dance evenings were scheduled for January 11 and 18. We ended up adding a third week to attract those who might have been discouraged by the frigid temperatures the first two weeks. We didn't end up with the huge numbers we got last year, but we're certainly not going to complain about the 18 new dancers we signed up. We saw from the first that they're a great group. The sub-zero temperatures (yes, in Billings it's a big deal) the first two weeks were also the weeks with the most registrations. Now we have broken pipes in Cedar Hall, meaning porta-potty time and cases of bottled water instead of faucets. Not only did we have 5 squares, we also had our January/February birthday party. So it looks like we won the new dancer lottery again. The Checkerboards dance on Thursdays in Cedar Hall from 6:30-9 p.m. on Thursdays.

Lynn Strobel, Bob Hogemark and Hunter Keller are keeping the Plus dancers happy on Saturdays from 7-9 p.m. Plus numbers are down since the Snowbirds left, but many of our dancers from the "Class of '23" are looking forward to advancing. So Lynn will probably include instruction in Plus in his program when dancing resumes in the fall.

On the fourth Saturday of each month, 7-9 p.m., Hunter calls the "Fourth Saturday Frolics." Once the beginner program starts, the full Mainstream dancers are busy being angels and get little chance to dance full Mainstream. The Frolics dances are our solution, and a great one it is. Hunter's a master at introducing Mainstream from different angles (literally!) and makes us all think a bit more.

The Silhouettes round dancers are also suffering the effects of the disappearing Snowbirds, but Hunter keeps toes tapping for those who remain. They dance on Mondays, also in Cedar Hall, from 7-9 p.m.

On the calendar are the Spring Dance with Lynn Strobel and the Beginner Hoedown with Bob Hogemark. And you know we're going to mention the State Festival on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27. We've been busy cooking up plans, so we hope you're all registered!

If you happen to be in Billings when any of the above dancing's going on, remember, you're always welcome! Visit our website, squaredancemontana.com and our Yellowstone Square Dance Council Facebook page, too.

Ann Hindley, reporter

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 5th - No Lessons (Dance Only at 6:30)

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

January 26th - Lessons & Dance

February 2nd - Lessons & Dance

February 9th - Lessons & Dance

February 23rd - Lessons & Dance

~~March 1st - Lessons & Dance Cancelled~~

March 8th - Lessons & Dance

March 22nd - Lessons & Dance

April 5th - Lessons & Dance

April 12th - Lessons & Dance

April 26th - Lessons & Dance

May 3rd - Lessons & Dance

May 17th - 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 Suttey @ 208-503-0551 or

Tim Casey @ 406-218-8677

Lolo

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

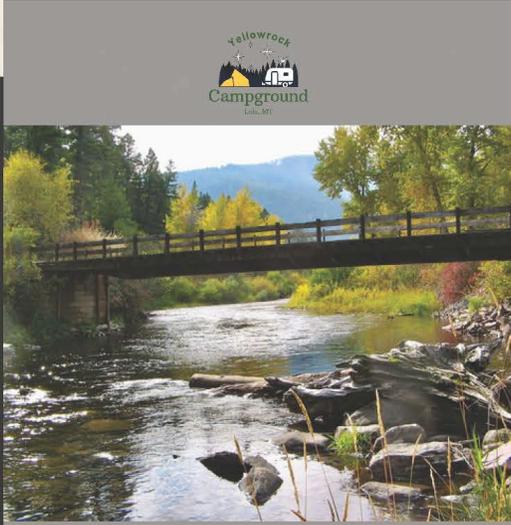
Weekend Package Prices
Unless Stated
\$35 pp - Weekend Package
\$8 pp - Workshops
\$12 pp - Night Dances

*July 17-20 Weekend Prices
Weekend - \$45 pp
Workshops - \$8 pp per wrkshp
Evening Dances - \$12 pp Per Dance

**Lolo Stomp Weekend Prices
\$50 pp - Weekend Package
\$8 pp - Per Workshop
\$12 pp - Per Evening Dance

Come Camp
~
Gather
~
Play at Yellowrock
campground!





(406) 273-0141
Camping Reservations Only

Check Yellowrock Gather
for additional square and
round dances info
www.yellowrockcampground.com/gather


Yellow Rock Campground
9955 US-12, Lolo, MT 59847

Yellowrock

Campground
Lolo, MT

**2024 Summer Dance
Schedule at Lolo, MT**



Dancing Sponsored by the
Solo Stars Square Dance Club

Dance Info Call:
Butch - (208) 503-0551
Tim - (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