



Big Sky News Monthly Newsletter



Month Nov/Dec | Year 2019 | Big Sky News

Announcement

Wow time has passed me by way too fast. I only received a few inputs for Nov and thought I'd wait a week to see if I had some late editor inputs. No such luck. Then out of sight out of mind I found myself at Thanksgiving...guess what, only two responses for Dec. So I decided that I would put out a NOV/DEC newsletter at the beginning of Dec. Well luck would have it that my job took me away for the first week in Dec. So, here we are. A little input for Nov/Dec. I hope all have a great holiday season and come Jan of 2020 we can turn a new leaf with a more energy and focus.

Questions/comments/suggestions for the Big Sky News contact me at: David.Hinds@MontanaSquareDancing.com

Inside This Issue

Editor Commentary

Dave shares some thoughts

State Festival

Club reports

Billings

Great Falls

Hamilton

Helena

***Kalispell**

***Libby**

***Lolo**

***Miles City**

***Plains**

*** No Updates for 2 months**

A note from the Editor

Welcome all to our 2019 to 2020 season of Square Dancing. Over the summer I know some of our dancers, callers and cuers have had some medical challenges, please keep them in your prayers.

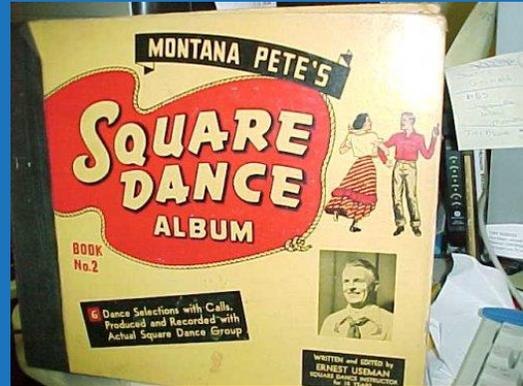
As we are in our holidays take time out to thank all of your square dance leaders for all the work they do to keep this activity alive. We can't do it without them.

Again, a Great Big THANKS to you all! We only have 5 months left before the Montana State Festival in Helena.

Send your comments to

BSN@MontanaSquareDancing.com

David Hinds



Montana State Festival

We will continually have a space here for the Montana State Festival. Look for breaking news or any other great tidbits that the chair would like to share.



Get Ready!

The state festivals are probably one of the best dances you'll ever attend. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. Dance till your feet are numb and still go back for another day of dancing. Take advantage of the guest callers and cuers for the event and if your lucky be the Best Square on the floor! Do some unique dancing from outside, on a glacier, or maybe a downtown event and you might even earn that special badge letting everyone know that you survived"

*Check out the
Festival Registration Form
on the next page!*



Caller/Cuer - A

Washington native, Don has been fortunate to have traveled world-wide calling square dances. He has called in England, Australia, Mexico, Canada, The Caribbean, as well as

Donnie & Marie Wood

the United States. He became interested in calling as a young boy, when his club caller asked him to do a singing call at a club dance. Several Years later, while he was in the service, he and his wife started dancing in New Jersey and the calling attraction began again. Music had always been a large part of his life, as over the years Don had been playing and singing in several bands and in church choirs, so the transition to square dance caller seemed to be a natural progression. Recently Don and his wife Marie were awarded the Almond F. Parker award, Washington State's most prestigious award for a caller couple. Don calls Mainstream through C1 and is the club caller for 3 local clubs. The Lacey Daisy's and Capital Singles Square Dance Clubs of Olympia and the Praairie Steppers Square Dance Club in Centralia, WA. He is also co-owner and producer/recording artist for Lou-Mac Records, recording many popular square dance tunes.



Charlie & Kristi Robertson

Caller -- Charlie began his calling career at the ripe old age of 12 in Southern California. He mentioned to his mother that he wanted to learn how to call. Charlie's mom contacted a local square dance caller

and arranged lessons. Square Dancing and square dance calling soon became a huge part of Charlies life.

Over the Last 30 years Charlie has been privileged to travel the world calling dances. Charlie enjoys calling all levels from Basic through C1. He is known for his energetic style and creative choreography.

Charlie has been a featured recording artist on several square dance record labels, for Lou-Mac Records, he recorded several songs that he is very proud of including the first and only true "Square Dance Rap" song. In 2008, Charlie realized a dream by joining several life long friends and becoming an owner and producer for Finetune and Goldwing Records.

In 2004, Charlie signed a recording contract with KMA Records in Nashville and completed his first CD. The CD includes all original country songs.

49th Annual Montana State Square & Round Dance

We will See You In 2020



East Helena, Montana
East Valley Middle School
400 Block of Kalispell Ave.
May 25-26-27-28, 2020

Registration Form Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Solo__ Couple__ Family__

Amount Enclosed _____

Make check payable to Last
Chance Squares
P.O. Box 616
East Helena, MT 59635

ALL EVENT PRICE

Couple Solo Family

Pre May 1 \$60 \$30 \$70
Post May 1 \$80 \$40 \$90

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

Friday night \$16 \$8 \$20
Mornings \$16 \$8 \$20
Afternoons \$16 \$8 \$20
Evenings \$20 \$10 \$30
Monday morning - Free

Family consists of: Parents & Children

NO REFUNDS - After May 1

**Squares Dancers
Bring Your Club Banners**

Dry Camping at no Charge

Cannot be on School Grounds before
4:30 pm on Friday

Must Leave schools grounds by
noon on Monday

get on the
dance floor

Program Schedule

Friday-May 22

4:30 -RV Parking
5:30 - registration
8 to 10:30 pm - Trails In Dance
Mainstream & Rounds
All Callers/All Cuers

Saturday-May 23

9:00-10:30 am: Phase 2, 3, 4 Rounds
10:30-Noon: Mainstream
1:00-2:00 pm: Phase 3, 4, 5 Rounds
2:00-3:00 pm: Mainstream
3:00-4:00 pm: Plus
4:00-5:00 pm: "A" Level
7:00-7:30 pm: Pre-rounds
7:45 pm: Grand March
8:00-10:30 pm: Mainstream & Plus
9:00pm: Round Showcase
10:30 pm: 2021 After Party

Sunday-May 24

9:00-10:30am: Phase 2,3,4 Rounds
10:30-Noon: Mainstream
1:00-2:00pm Phase 3, 4, 5 Rounds
@:00-3:00pm: Mainstream
3:00-4:00pm: Plus
4:15-4:45 pm: State meeting
7:30-8:00pm Pre-Rounds
8:00-10:30pm Mainstream & Plus
9:00 pm: Round Showcase
10:30pm: Caller/Cuer after party

Monday- May 25

9:00-11:00 am : Trails Out Dance
All Callers/All Cuers
Mainstream & Rounds

*Dance
is the
hidden Language
of the Soul!*

-Martha Graham



Club Report

Yellowstone Square Dance Council – Billings

by Ann Hindley

First of all, a big thank you to all who helped make up the six squares dancing to Dee Dee Dougherty and Hunter Keller and rounds by Larry and Susan (along with an excellent demo) at our Big Sky Roundup September 27 and 28. We enjoyed dancing with all of you and appreciate your support.

Dancing has started in October in the Billings area with all groups launching their seasons. Lynn and Judy Strobel traveled from Miles City to put on a Plus level kickoff day on October 5. Graduates of Hunter's Plus Blast Class held in May were back for a refresher with workshops in the afternoon and early evening. Then they got to show off at the dance afterward. Workshopping will continue for the first hour of each of our regular Saturday night Plus dances through December.

The Checkerboard Squares' beginner program started with registration dances held on October 17 and 24. There are slightly fewer beginners this session than in the program of January 2019, but the veterans of that program are very enthusiastic "angels" now! In fact, a recent beginner/club dance at the Checkerboards looked more like an open dance with 5 squares on the floor. What an encouraging sight!

The snowbirds are beginning to migrate south; Larry and Susan are already gone but Larry will be back periodically to minister to the Silhouettes on selected Sunday afternoons. Hunter is graciously filling in for Larry in his absence.

The rest of the regular dance schedule at Cedar Hall consists of A-level workshopping 7-9 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, Checkerboard Squares 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursdays and Plus dancing 7-9:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Contradance happens on selected Fridays from 7 to 10:30 p.m. with the December dances scheduled for the 6th and a Holiday Dance on the 20th



Upcoming special dances are the YSDC callers' Christmas Dance on Saturday, December 7 from 7-9:30 p.m. in Cedar Hall. Once again we'll be ringing in the new on December 31 with our New Year's Eve dance. There are a few changes this year, to allow the dancers to get off the road before the really crazy drivers head home. The evening will begin with a potluck at 7 p.m. Then we'll dance off all those calories from 8-10 p.m.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season everyone. Come dance with us when you're in the area. Remember, dance schedules, upcoming events and our newsletter, the Grapevine, can be seen on our website, squaredancemontana.com

Club Report Great Falls

by Joann Yates

In October elections were held for the Dudes and Dolls Club in Great Falls and the following are the newly elected officers. This a completely new group and are still working at learning what to do. We hope to have a great year and have lots of new ideas coming from them.

President- Joann Yates 406-799-1071
Vice President- Ed Bandel
Secretary- Carol Drga
Treasurer- George Yates 406-799-1070

Congratulations to all 4 of them!

Our beginner classes started in September and we have 5 new dancers and they are doing great.

Our Halloween dance had a low attendance due to conflict with the calendar for several of our members but those that did had a lot of fun dancing the evening away.

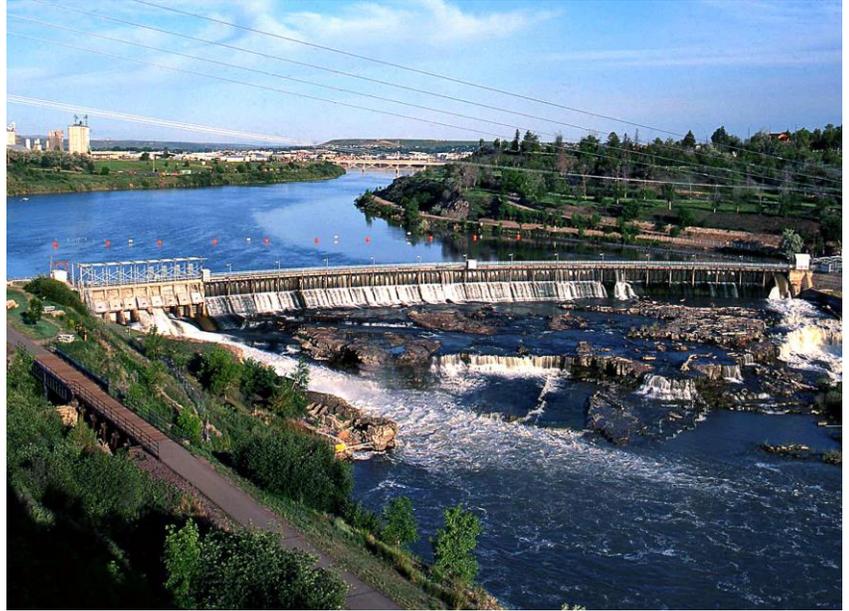
The calendar for November is as follows. (subject to change due to attendance and weather)

November 2- Plus dance 7:00 - 9:00 pm
November 9th- Regular dance 6:30 - 9:00 pm
November 23- Thanksgiving Dance & Potluck 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Sunday evenings @ 4:00 - 6:00 are beginner lessons
6:00 - 8:00 are Plus lessons

All are held at Missouri River Manor 1130 17th Ave S, Great Falls.

Any questions please call Joann @ 406-799-1071 or George @ 406-799-1070

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



Decembers schedule is a bit thin due to the holidays.

December 8th (Sunday) Graduation Dance 4 – 6 pm
December 14th Christmas Dance & Potluck 6:00 – 9:00pm
December 31st New Years Eve Dance & Potluck 6 – 9pm

If you have any questions regarding our club and dancing, please contact David at 406-799-1715 or by email at david.hinds@montanasquaredancing.com.

We would love to have you join our dances or workshops anytime.

Club Report Hamilton

by Dee Terrill Moenich

Boots & Calico November dances are as follows:

Saturday Nov 2nd - 7:00 Pre Rounds 7:30 - 9:30
Mainstream being called by Ray Dunbar
Round dance music provided by Don Scheline

Saturday Nov 9th - 7:00 Pre rounds, 7:30 - 9:30
Mainstream guest caller Kathy Racine

Saturday Nov 16th - 7:00 Plus, 7:30 - 9:30
Mainstream called by Ray Dunbar

PIE NIGHT!! BRING/ SHARE A PIE FUNDRAISER

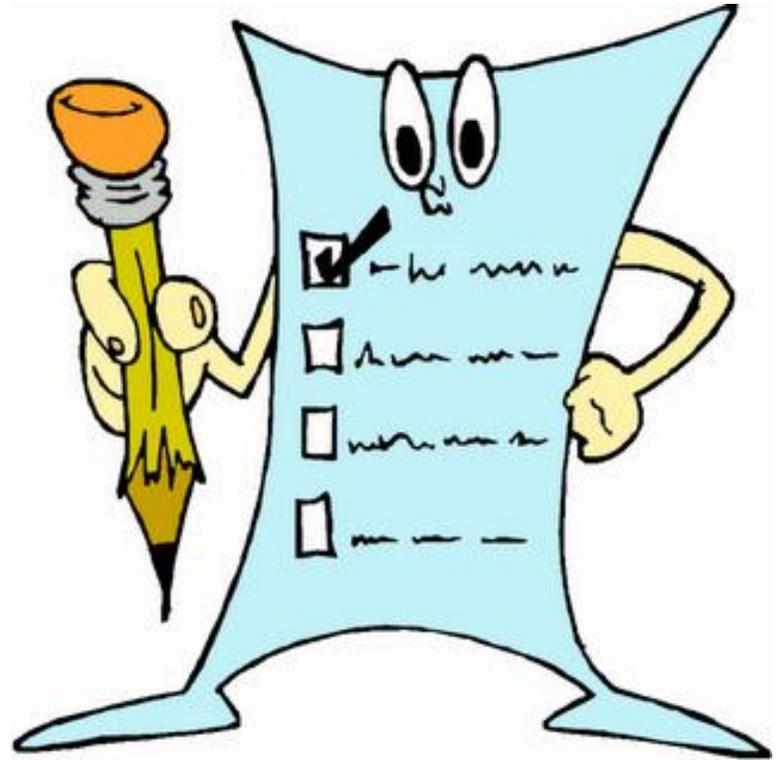
Saturday Nov 23rd - 7:00 Pre rounds, 7:30 - 9:30
Mainstream called by Ray Dunbar

Saturday Nov 30th NO DANCE- TOO FULL FROM
THANKSGIVING!!!!

Boots & Calico dances at the Golden Age Center, 5th & Baker streets in Hamilton. We have a nice wooden floor and plenty of seating. For more info, call Ray Dunbar at 370-4414 Come join us!!

December dance schedule for Boots & Calico. We meet at the Golden Age Center at 5th & Baker Streets in Hamilton.

Sat Dec 7th - 7 - 7:30, Plus 7:30 - 9:30 Mainstream
Called by Ray Dunbar, rounds by Don Scheline



Sat Dec 14th - 7 - 7:30, Pre rounds 7:30 - 9:30
Mainstream called by Ray Dunbar

Sat Dec 21th - 7 - 7:30, Plus 7:30 - 9:30
XMAS PARTY DANCE by Ray Dunbar

Sat Dec 28th NO DANCE

Tue Dec 31st - 7 - 7:30 Pre rounds 7:30 - 9:30 (time may change)
NEW YEARS EVE DANCE!!!

Mainstream dance called by Ray Dunbar
Round dance music by Don Scheline

Club Report Helena

by Cathy Kaiser

During October we have been continuing with square dance lessons on Monday evenings. Many of our club members traveled to Lolo for the Oktoberfest and really enjoyed it! We will continue without club dances thru November and December on the first and third Saturday beginning at 7 pm at Broadwater elementary school gym. Please join us if you're in town and remember to check out our Facebook page at Helena Last Chance Square Dance.

Current club officers are:

Virgil Kaiser, President, 406-438-1589,
vckaiser@gmail.com

Shirlie Kuykendall, Vice President

Karyn Hamilton, Secretary, 406-461-7536

Dwain Wood, Treasurer



Club Report Kalispell

by Roger Jones

This page left unintentionally blank

NOPE NOTHING.



Club Report Libby

by Jo Wilson

Looking for 2019 – 2020 Schedule



Club Report Miles City

by Lynn Strobel

Empty no input



Lynn and Judy Strobel

Prairie Stars

406-234-7384 406-951-1088

strobell@midrivers.com

<http://lynnstrobel.tripod.com>

Club Report Lolo

by Debby Ernst



SOLO STARS in LOLO, MT

Nope, no input

Let's keep up our prayers for Barry and Bobbie's health needs.

Be watching your email for any changes in schedules.

Until next time, Debby E reporting.

Questions: Call Tim & Dee Casey 406-529-8633

Club Report Plains

by Darlene Jolly

Quiet on the Plains front



Any questions call Darlene at 826-8951