

Big Sky News Monthly Newsletter

Live Lively -



Square Dance!

Volume 20 | Issue 10 | Big Sky News

Announcement

Getting back into the swing of things. Yes this is the Octobers Big Sky News. I've gathered inputs from the clubs from last month to now as we get ready for our 2019-2020 editions.

Take a moment and thank your club for getting news to make this happen. Special this edition, a Letter from the President

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

Thanks,
Dave

Inside This Issue

Editor Commentary

**Dave shares some thoughts
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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.

Most of our clubs are starting their seasons along with getting new dancers ready as we move into lessons. I look forward to new faces at this years

Again, a Great Big THANKS to you all! We only have 7 months left before the Montana State Festival in Helena.

Send your comments to
BSN@MontanaSquareDancing.com

David Hinds



A Letter from the President



Hello State Round and Square Dancers. I am Virgil Kaiser, the current President of the State Round and Square Dancers Committee. I hope that you all had a great and enjoyable summer and had a chance to get lots of dancing in. My wife and I seem to do a lot more dancing once summer is over. We just returned from attending the Knothead Jamboree held in West Yellowstone. When your feet and legs hurt, you know you got enough dancing in! The Knothead Jamboree is held in a unique and beautiful location filled with 64 years of tradition like no other. Heartfelt thanks goes out to the Jamboree committee for providing once again a wonderful caller and, oh, by the way you'll get another chance to dance to him at the State convention in 2020 in Helena. In addition, a great big Thank You to all of you dancers that attended.

One of the main events that takes place during the State Convention and the Knothead Jamboree is the State Meeting. Although, this is not very well advertised, we are going to work on that in the future. This is an open meeting for all interested parties to attend; in other words, these meetings are for you to tell us what we are or are not doing well. It's a place to brainstorm ideas for attracting new dancers and initiatives for keeping dancers.

Throughout the State, Clubs are having difficulty hanging on. We need all of you to assist us in rebuilding the Round and Square Dancing community. Something that I found interesting at the meeting held Sunday afternoon was a question posed by one of the attendees of the meeting. "Who would I contact if I was interested in setting up or Co-Hosting a dance with another Club?" Answer: Contact one of the officers of the Club you are interested in Co-Hosting with You! Blank Stare – "Where would I find the list of officers for the different clubs?" Blank Stare Back – "I have No Idea", Do we even know what Clubs are still functioning? So here we go!

The Big Sky News Letter is no longer a published newsletter - it is now a Web Site containing the Newsletter, where people can go and find the State Square and Round Dance news, along with club information. David Hinds has graciously volunteered to manage the Website and it can be found at montanasquaredancing.com. I would like each Club to post their elected officers with a means to contact them; i.e., phone numbers, email addresses or other means on your Clubs Column Space in the Newsletter. We are going to need all your help on this one. I will also have my officer's relay and obtain information from the various clubs that they meet. Oh yes, someone from your club will have to get the information from the Website and distribute to your members who does not access the internet. Please print out a copy and share at your weekly dances.

STATE OFFICERS Are

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

Yet to be Named (Ronan) Vice President Should
have been elected May 0f 2019

Karen Hamilton (Helena), Secretary 406-461-7536

Shirley Kuykendall, (Helena) Treasurer

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

Welcome back everyone! Hope you all had a good summer. It was great to see many of you at the summer events.

The Billings area was represented at all of the major dance events this summer. Hunter also had an admirable turnout for his twice-monthly summer dances at the Casa Village Rec Center. Due to conflicting summer activities, many faces changed from dance to dance, but we always had a great time. We were happy to see so many of our new dancers attending when they could.

Our regular dance season is about to begin. There has already been one A workshop and they will continue to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Checkerboard Squares regular club dancing will begin Thursday, October 3 and the beginner program will start Thursday, October 17. Larry and Susan will offer beginner Rumba and Cha classes starting Tuesday, October 1. Regular Sunday Silhouette club dancing will start on October 20.

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. We enjoyed dancing with all of you and appreciate your support.

Dancing has started in earnest in the Billings area with all groups launching their seasons. As usual, this time of year means finding our way through the maze of N.I.L.E.-related trailers, animal pens and spectator cars in the Metra parking lots. Thank goodness our dancers are a stubborn lot. We get to the dance even when the traffic handlers try to direct us away from it!



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 on October 17. Registrations will continue on October 24; after that the program will be closed to newcomers so that the new folks can progress. So far the numbers are smaller than the beginner program of January 2019, but the veterans of that program are very enthusiastic "angels" now!

Club dance schedule at Cedar Hall consists of Silhouettes round dancing on Sundays 1-5 p.m. (various levels), 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 next dance scheduled for October 25 and the first November dance on the 8th. Dance schedules, upcoming events and our newsletter, the Grapevine, can be seen on our website, squaredancemontana.com. We hope you'll come dance with us when you're in the area.



Club Report Great Falls

by Linda Wallace

We had a very good and fun 50's Dance and Pot Luck with Hunter Keller calling and cueing on Sept. 7th. The night was complete with 11 dancers from Helena to share in our fun. Let's see if we can't get a group to go visit Helena and return the visitation

Our 2 demos (Eagles Manor and Chateau) were very successful and fun. We had participation from the audiences in both demos and they enjoyed it as we did also.

Our beginner class held on September 22nd was also successful with 7 new students attending. They all seemed to have a great time.

Next month on October 12st we will be having elections for all new officers. John nor I will neither take an office again-we have a great bunch of club members to fill the 4 positions. Be thinking of whom you would like. Come on October 12st 6:00 at Missouri River Manor and vote for your favorites. It's your club.

We would love to have you join in the fun with the Dudes N Dolls whenever possible. We are always open to having new dancers join us.



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 Square Dance Club will be dancing Saturday October 5th at the Golden Age Center which is at 5th and Baker Streets in Hamilton. We dance from 7pm to 9:30 pm most Saturdays. Our resident caller is Ray Dunbar and we will host guest callers during the season. We have a large wooden floor to dance on and plenty of room to sit and visit. Our season will start off with a pot luck at 6:00 on October 5th with pre rounds at 7 and our Mainstream dance is always from 7:30 to 9:30 with plus tips. Cost is \$6 for dancers, and spectators are always welcome! Saturday the 12th Ray will call the Mainstream dance. The 19th we will go dark in support of the Lolo October Fest dance. Saturday the 26th will be our Halloween dance and costumes are encouraged!
375-0100 to register or at the first class.

Ray will also be teaching Plus level on Thursday nights from 7pm -8:30. Experience dancing Mainstream is a must for this class. It is desirable to have a partner. Ray will be teaching beginning Square Dancing at the Bitterroot College in Hamilton starting Wed nights from 7 to 8:30 pm. First session is Oct 9th - Dec 4th. (no class on Nov 27th) Cost is \$24 per student unless you live in the Hamilton School District and are 65+. Seniors are free. Wear comfortable shoes. It is desirable to have a partner. Come for fun and fitness!



Bitterroot College is at 103 S 9th and Main in Hamilton. Call 406-375-0100 to register or at the first class.

Ray will also be teaching Plus level on Thursday nights from 7pm - 8:30. Experience dancing Mainstream is a must for this class. It is desirable to have a partner.

Club Report

Helena

by Cathy Kaiser

The Last Chance Square Dance Club in Helena start lessons for beginners on Monday, September 23, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Regular club dances will be held every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month beginning on September 21, 2019. All dances are held in the Broadwater Elementary School Gym with rounds at 6:30 and mainstream at 7- 9 p.m. Please join us if you are in town!



The Last Chance Square Dance for October 19th will be cancelled since many of our members plan to travel to Lolo for the Oktoberfest!

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

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Club Report Libby

by Jo Wilson

Looking for 2019 – 2020 Schedule



Club Report Miles City

by Lynn Strobel

Looking forward to next month for an 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

SEPTEMBER + OCTOBER 2019

Happy Fall, Dancing Friends! Oh, it feels good to be kicking up our heels once again!

We had great fun dancing to Barry on Sept 12 at the Solo Stars "Fun Night"! We had three squares and one new couple. Check out our dance schedule below.

Mark your Calendars!

SEPT 16, MON – WE BEGIN SOLO STARS MAINSTREAM EACH MON! 7:00-9:00pm

As Barry feels able, he will call each week. Be watching your emails for any changes to that schedule. (Or call Tim & Dee Casey at 406-529-8633.)



SEPT 17, TUES – ROUND DANCE LESSONS – Lolo Rounds begin, as Barry feels able.

6:30-7:30pm Basics

7:30-8:30pm Dance

8:30pm Phase 3-4+ Workshop

→ OCT18+19, FRI & SAT – OCTOBERFEST SQUARE DANCE WEEKEND ←

Dance is hosted by Lolo Square Dance Center, along with Missoula Federation and Solo Stars.
(This dance will also take the place of Missoula Federation Dance & Solo Stars Harvest Ball.)

FEATURING: Adam Christman AND Hunter Keller; Rounds by Barry Bartlette

OCT 18, FRI: 7:00pm Pre-rounds with Barry Bartlette

OCT 18, FRI: 7:30-9:30pm - MAINSTREAM DANCE with Plus Tips

OCT 19, SAT: 10:00am-12:00 Caller's Choice Workshop

OCT 19, SAT: 6:00pm POTLUCK (brats & kraut provided)

OCT 19, SAT: 7:30-9:30pm MAINSTREAM DANCE with Plus Tips

Octoberfest attire is welcome. \$60 per couple at the door for the weekend.

COME JOIN THE FUN!!

~

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

The “MONTANA MAVERICKS” September dance enjoyed 24 dancers at our new dance hall – the Plains-Paradise Sr. Center in Plains. Our caller was Marvin Speck from Troy. What a fun dance we had. We had 13 guests from Kalispell & Lolo. We certainly appreciate the support. Everybody seemed to enjoy the wood floor to dance on & approved of the new facility. This was our first dance here. We’ll hope for 15 years or more at this place.



On September 22 we are having a special 15th anniversary dance at the red barn in St. Ignatious at 2pm in the afternoon. Adam Christman will be calling & Lorrie will be cueing. Coming from the south it is the 2nd right hand turn off Hwy 93 (just before the bridge). When you turn you’ll be looking right at the barn.

October thru May we dance the first Saturday in Plains. 2nd Saturday June, & September & 2nd weekend of August.

Any questions call Darlene at 826-8951