

# Big Sky News Monthly Newsletter

Volume 19 | Issue 04 | Big Sky News

Live Lively -



Square Dance!

## *Announcement*

Hey! Are you registered for the Montana State Festival in May? No! We'd love to have you there and you only have until April 15<sup>th</sup> to secure your spot at this annual dance at the low low rate of \$30.00/per person. After April 15<sup>th</sup> the price goes to \$40.00/ per person. **SAVE SOME MONEY NOW!** Take a look at page 4 of the Big Sky News and join in the fun. Look forward to seeing you there.

Questions/comments/suggestions for the Big Sky News contact me at: [David.Hinds@MontanaSquareDancing.com](mailto:David.Hinds@MontanaSquareDancing.com)

Thanks,  
Dave

## *Inside This Issue*

### Editor Commentary

**Dave shares some thoughts**

**State Festival**

**Club reports**

**Billings**

**Great Falls**

**Hamilton**

**Helena**

**Kalispell**

**Libby**

**Lolo**

**Miles City**

**Plains**

## *A note from the Editor*

For the last few months I have had an open forum of “fun dance”, “barn dance”, “into to Squares”, etc. While the initial response was slow – you have voiced your opinions, ideas and suggestions. Let me share the basics.

The responses were varied but there came a point that Contra Dance became the main topic of discussion. Bottom line; should prospective Square Dancers be taught/introduced to Contra first? Over all responses was no, not necessarily. While Contra has its likenesses to Square Dancing there are some radical differences that may make it confusing to the new square dancer.

In addition the feedback received was there is a general interest in Contra Dancing and we do have dancers that would enjoy it as part of Square Dance activity or as a standalone activity

So clubs take a look at it? Is there room for Contra in your area? Maybe one of your members will take the challenge

Send your comments to  
[BSN@MontanaSquareDancing.com](mailto:BSN@MontanaSquareDancing.com)

David Hinds



*This space is reserved!*

Hey, I thought I'd make some space for the President of the State Board to comment. So here it is.

Didn't get an input this month still hoping...

# 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.



## *Never been?*

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!*



**48TH MONTANA STATE SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE FESTIVAL**

MISSOULA, MT  
MAY 24-27, 2019



**Onsite Camping Information**  
Free dry camping will be available in the school parking lot  
Please help us leave the area in even better shape than we found it.



**Alternative Lodging**  
Super 8 Brooks St  
406-251-2255

FairBridge Inn & Suites  
406-251-2665

Brooks Street Motor Inn  
800-538-3260

Sleep Inn  
406 543-5883

KOA Campground  
406-549-0881

Jim and Mary's RV Park  
406 549-4416

Square Dance Center & Campground,  
406-273-0141  
Lolo, MT 59847

**Map**



**Directions**  
From Interstate 90  
Take Exit 101 - Reserve Street  
South to Brooks St  
Northeast on Brooks St to South Ave  
East on South Ave past high school  
South on Bancroft to the parking lot.

From Highway 93 South  
Highway 93 becomes Brooks Street  
Northeast on Brooks St to South Ave  
East on South Ave past high school  
South on Bancroft to parking lot.

**Contact Information**  
Ray & Laurie Dunbar  
406-961-4528  
sewsqr@yahoo.com

Tim & Dee Casey  
406-529-8633  
dimandtee@msn.com

Barry & Bobbie & Bartlette  
406-273-0141  
sqrdance@bresnan.net

**2019 Montana State Square & Round Dance Festival**

**"STARS and STRIPES"**



**WE WANT YOU!! To Join Us**

**May 24-27, 2019**

Sentinel High School  
901 South Ave W.  
Missoula, MT

**Featuring**  
**Caller:**  
Scot Byars  
Sacramento, CA

**Cuer:**  
Barry & Bobbie Bartlette  
Lolo, MT

**Biographies:**  
**Caller: Scot Byars**  
Scot began dancing at the early age of 6, and was calling by his early teens in the San Francisco Bay Area. He was club caller for a teen club, a pre teen club, and an adult club with 25 squares.

Between growing up and moves up and down the state of California, Scot has continued teaching new dancers as well as calling for dances, festivals and intro nights. He has been a full time caller since 2003 and estimates he has taught over 3000 people to square dance. Scott continues to call for 5 active clubs in the Sacramento area still finding time to call for dances and festivals in California and nearby states.

**Cuer: Barry & Bobbie Bartlette**  
Barry began square dancing in 1979, started calling in 1980, and cueing in 1982. He was a club caller in Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana as he transferred with his hydro-electric career. Bobbie began dancing in the late 50s as her dad, Ray Granger learned to call. She took a few years off to chase children to activities returning to dancing in 1990. Barry and Bobbie met in 1996 at the State Festival in Billings, MT and became a team, dancing and teaching soon after. In 1998, when Ray passed away, they began co-managing the Square Dance Center & Campground in Lolo, MT. Barry is the staff caller at Lolo. They teach square and round dancing and choreograph rounds.

**Lunch & Snacks available at school or on your own**

**Program Schedule**

**Friday Evening**  
All Caller - All Cuer  
Mainstream with Rounds  
7:00 - 10:00 pm

**Saturday Morning**  
Phase 2+ Workshop & Teach with Barry & Bobbie  
9:00 - 10:30 am  
Mainstream Workshop with Scot  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Lunch Catered or On Your Own  
12:00 - 1:00 pm

**Saturday Afternoon**  
Surprise Badge Dance with Barry  
1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Plus Workshop with Scot  
2:30 - 4:00 pm  
Advanced at floor level with Scot  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Saturday Evening**  
Pre-Rounds with Barry  
7:00 - 7:30 pm  
Grand March  
7:45 pm  
Mainstream & Plus tips with Scot  
8:00 - 10:00 pm  
After Party  
With Last Chance Squares  
10:00 pm

**Rest well!  
There will be lots more fun  
Sunday and Monday!**

**Program Schedule**

**Sunday Morning**  
Phase 3+ Workshop and Teach with Barry & Bobbie  
9:00 - 10:30 am  
Plus Workshop with Scot  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Lunch Catered or On Your Own  
12:00 - 1:30 pm

**Sunday Afternoon**  
Mainstream Dance with Scot  
1:30 - 3:00 pm  
Plus Dance with Scot  
3:00 - 4:30 pm

**State Meeting**  
4:45 - 5:45 pm

**Sunday Evening**  
Pre-Rounds with Barry  
7:30 - 8:00 pm  
Mainstream & Plus tips with Scot  
8:00 - 10:00 pm

**Monday Morning**  
All Caller - All Cuer  
Trails Out Dance - Mainstream  
9:30 - 11:00 am



**Thanks for joining us!**

**Registration Form**  
Includes festival bar if received on or before April 15, 2019

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# of adult dancers \$30 each \_\_\_\_\_  
Family (2 adults, 2+ youth) \$75 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**If postmarked after April 15, 2019  
\$40 per adult, \$85 per family**

Camping available **after** 4:00 pm on school grounds. Dry camping. No charge. First Come, First Served. Wagon Master will assist you.

Planning on camping onsite? \_\_\_\_\_  
Size and type of RV \_\_\_\_\_

Caller? \_\_\_\_\_  
Cuer? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send registration to:**  
MASRD  
PO Box 1463  
Lolo, MT 59847

**Make checks payable to:**  
MASRD

# Club Report

## Yellowstone Square Dance Council – Billings

by Ann Hindley

Over here in the Billings area March may have come in like a lion, but by mid-month we were having a melly March instead. The upside of that was wonderful traveling weather and we were happy to welcome 5 squares to the Checkerboard Squares' spring dance. We had an amazing number of visitors and it was sure good to see faces we hadn't seen in a while. We really appreciate all the folks who hit the road for dancing, and we're glad to be involved in an activity that makes us all willing to do so. Thank you to Lynn, Larry and all the dancers for making this a fun-filled Saturday.



Hunter traveled to Cody on March 22 to call for the Kut N Kapers. They are a determined bunch, currently callerless and with a number of snowbirds absent, but they keep going anyway! We see them often in Billings and can't wait to return the favor on April 26 and 27 at their Spring Dance.

Our last big thing for the season is the Magic City Hoedown with Bill Henke and Larry and Susan Sperry, May 3-4.

Contradances in April will be April 5 and 26.

I'm sending along a photo of our amazing beginner class. They're going strong and progressing rapidly. At this rate, it won't be long before you'll meet them either at one of our dances or one of yours. You're all invited to come and get acquainted at the Checkerboard Squares' Beginner Hoedown on Thursday, April 26. Then from there you could travel with us down to Cody for the aforementioned Spring Dance. What better excuse to take a long weekend!

Have a Happy Easter and safe travels to all who will be traveling to visit family for the holiday or to go dancing anytime. Come see us when you can!

# Club Report Great Falls

by Linda Wallace

We are finally melting a little and more blue skies all the time. Hope your area is doing well and ready to welcome spring. Great Falls people certainly are.

We have a new theme (for us) on our April 6th dance--Partner Trade Dance. Will be fun to see how many people actually dress up for the dance with the idea being that you are now dancing and dressing as the opposite sex--at least for a small portion of the dance. Anxious to see how many men show us their legs and how they look in a dress. Dance will be held at Missouri River Manor from 6:30 to 9:00pm. David Hinds will be the caller.

Our club dance will be held on April 27th from 6:30 to 9:00pm again at the Missouri River Manor with David calling and cueing. We have our workshops being held on April 7th, April 14th, April 28th at the Missouri River Manor from 4-6pm. We have had a great attendance along with our regular dancers coming to learn new things also.

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](mailto:david.hinds@montanasquaredancing.com).

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

# Club Report Hamilton

by Dee Terrill Moenich

Quiet this month – Oh Oh.....



# Club Report

## Helena

by Cathy Kaiser

The Helena Last Chance Squares had a fantastic St Patrick's Day dance with caller Bob Hogemark and Glen Tusler cueing. Bill Bandy made excellent corn beef and cabbage for all attendees. After the dance, the infamous donkey party took place with 5 more individuals earning their donkey badge. It was quite the laughs and experience!

Our club will not have another dance until April 6th. On April 13th our spring fling will take place with Hunter Keller calling and Glen Tusler cueing. Please join us for loads of fun while we dance the spring in and bid farewell to winter!

Please feel free to visit our Facebook page at Helena Last Chance Square Dance.



**Last Chance Squares**  
**Spring Fling**  
April 13, 2019

Broadwater School, Playground entrance  
Helena, Montana  
Hunter Keller, our caller  
Glen Tusler, our Cuer

Admittance: \$7.00 per person for evening only  
\$10.00 per person afternoon & evening

When:  
3:30 - Plus  
5:30 Pot Luck  
6:15 Pre Rounds  
6:30-9:00 MS/ with Plus Tips  
9:00 Time to Claim your Bid items

*Don't forget about our silent Auction,  
"all monies raised goes to the school"*

# Club Report Kalispell

by Roger Jones

Nope

---I didn't get an input from Kalispell for the April issue of the Big Sky News

Still looking for contacts in Kalispell? I've exhausted mine. Maybe they have closed their doors

I am looking at removing Kalispell from our newsletter.

Next Month??



# Club Report

## Libby

by Jo Wilson

We will start beginning square dance classes on Sunday, October 21 from 6 – 8 p.m. Classes will be held at Libby Elementary School, Brown Pod, at the corner of Education Way and Ski Road in Libby. Marvin Speck from Troy, MT is our teacher for the class.

Our dance in November will be on November 24 with Adam Christmas, calling and Priscilla Higdon, cuing. Our theme is Thanksgiving and we will be collecting food for the Libby Food Bank. Plus begins at 7 p.m. with Mainstream from 8 – 10 p.m. Our dances are held at Asa Wood School gym, 700 N. Idaho Ave., Libby, MT.



### Libby Spinning Squares 2018-2019 Dance Schedule



<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller/Cuer</u>	<u>Theme</u>
*Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018	Than Peake Priscilla Higdon	Ken's Birthday Party
October 27, 2018	Rick & Kathy Utter Kathy Utter	Halloween
November 24 2018	Adam Christman Priscilla Higdon	Thanksgiving
*Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018	Marvin Speck Sharon McNair	Christmas Dance (Party Level)
*Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019	Marvin Speck	Winter Carnival (Party Level)
January 26, 2019	Marvin Speck Lorrie Lane	Chinese New Year
February 23, 2019	Adam Christman Priscilla Higdon	Western
March 23, 2019	Ed Schiffner Ed Schiffner	50's Dance
* Sunday, April 14, 2019	Than Peake Lorrie Lane	Lorrie's Birthday Party
April 27, 2019	Bob Amsbury Claudia Amsbury	Crazy T-Shirt Dance
*Sunday, May 19, 2019	Rick & Kathy Utter Kathy Utter	Luau
<b>August 2, 3, 4, 2019</b>	<b>Logger Festival &amp; Libby Dam Dance</b> Rod Shuping from Lancaster, CA & Justine Litzko from Rathdrum, ID	

**Saturday Night Dances** - Plus at 7 p.m.; Mainstream from 8 - 10 p.m.

**\*Sunday Afternoon Dances** - Plus at 3 p.m.; Mainstream from 4 - 6 p.m.

All times are Mountain Standard time

Admission: **\$6.00 per person, under 15, \$3.00**

Dances Held at: **Asa Wood School, 700 Idaho Ave., Libby, MT**

**\*Dance on a Wood Floor\***

Info: **Ted Jewell:** 406-293-1165 or

**Jo Wilson:** 406-293-3265; email: jrussell43@frontiernet.net

**Find us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/LibbySpinningSquares](http://www.facebook.com/LibbySpinningSquares))**

A Williams Listening Transmitter will be available at dances.



# Club Report Miles City

by Lynn Strobel

Prairie Stars, Miles City

Nope, Nothing. Nada...for the month of April

Another very quite area? Is anyone out there reading this??



# Club Report Lolo

by Debby Ernst



Happy Spring, Square Dancers!

We've had fun at the Lolo Community Center BUT we are really glad to **Welcome Back Barry & Bobbie** and to continue our **2019 Dance Lineup!**

**Mark your Calendars!**

**APR 1, MON – SOLO STARS BEGINS** again!

Lessons 6:30-8:00pm each Monday.

**MAINSTREAM DANCE** follows at 8:00pm

**EACH MONDAY.**

**EACH TUES – Lolo Rounds ROUND DANCE**

**LESSONS; begins 4/2**

6:30-7:30pm Basics

7:30-8:30pm Dance

8:30pm Phase 3-4+ Workshop

**EACH THURS**

**BEGINNING ROUND LESSONS, 7:00pm, begins 4/4**

**EACH FRI**

Swingola PLUS DANCE at Lolo, 7:00pm;  
begins 4/5 (no dance the 12<sup>th</sup>)

(Call Barry Fri afternoons at 273-0141 so he knows if there will be enough dancers. Thank you.)

**APR 13, SAT:**

Solo Stars SPRING FLING

Barry Bartlette, Caller & Cuer

7:00-7:30pm Pre-rounds

7:30-9:30pm MAINSTREAM SQUARE  
DANCE

**MAY 11, SAT – MISSOULA FEDERATION DANCE!**

(More info to come.)

We were thrilled as a club recently to be able to celebrate with Larry Shaw his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday! Congrats again, Larry!

Until next time, Debby E reporting.

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

\*Check out the Lolo Dance Center website at

<http://lolocampndance.com/> for coming events.



# Club Report Plains

by Darlene Jolly

The “**MONTANA MAVERICKS**” March dance had pretty low attendance due to the weather. We had 12 club members & no guests. Adam Christman & Lorrie Lane called & cued for a great dance. Since all but 2 in the group were plus dancers, we danced plus except when they were on the floor. We started to quit a little early but 2 members showed up during the last tip, so we danced another Mainstream tip for them.



October thru May we dance the first Saturday at the First Security Bank in Plains. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday during the summer months.

Our potluck dinner was great tho, lots of great dishes. Our silent auction went well even with that few people. I'll figure out tomorrow how much we took in, but I'm guessing about \$90 or so. One of the highlights was a nutcracker brought by Kirk Christman. It was purchased by Kirk Christman for his grandson Avi who had a great time with it.

Any questions call Darlene at 826-8951.

Our April dance will feature Gary Baker & Lorrie – May will be called by Ed Evans of Oak Harbor, WA – and June (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat) will feature Than Peake. Lorrie will cue both of them also.