



# Big Sky News Square Dancing

May Edition | Year 2024 | Big Sky News

## *Announcement*

May 2024 – It is time for the Montana State Square Dance Festival. It is time to get your plans made and registrations in.

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*

The Montana State Convention is here. I have received flyers for events and conventions. They will be on the website, as I find time. 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.

Thank You for letting me do this.

Jim Fuller

GOOD NEWS:

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.

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.

# 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**

**Scotback  
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 Suttley at Aldersgate Methodist Church Gym. Please call Butch at 208-503-0551 prior to visiting or attending to verify the dance.

Per Butch Suttley – 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

Montana Mavicks held our annual Ed Evans weekend, with him giving a Mainstream workshop on Friday night and calling at the Saturday dance. Lorrie Lane taught a short Plus class after the workshop on Friday and cued at the Saturday dance. Everyone had a great time both nights, with lots of smiles and laughter.

We have two more Friday night classes for Mainstream and Plus this month before the State Festival. Then classes end until September.

See you all in Billings!

Montana Mavericks dance most every month at the Plains/Paradise Senior Center in Plains. For more information, call Darlene Jolly at 406-826-8951.

## Billings

Hello from Billings!

We're looking forward to seeing all of you in a few short weeks at the State Square and Round Dance Festival. We know Tony and Hunter will make it an event to remember.

Due to several complications, we ended up with a smaller beginner class this year but will be inducting five new dancers into the Checkerboard Squares at our Beginner Hoedown on May 9. We hear from many of the original group that they plan to be back when we start beginners again in the fall.

Another event coming up is the Plus Workshop and Dance in Forsyth on Saturday, June 10. Lynn and Judy Strobel always make sure we have fun, and all the Prairie Stars dancers make sure we're well fed! Lynn is also making plans to conduct Plus lessons in the fall, kicking off with an all-day session on Saturday October 5 in Billings.

The season may be coming to an end, but it looks like there's plenty of dancing to be had over the summer. Hope to see you at lots of them! Have a safe and happy summer!

Ann Hindley, reporter

## Lolo

Hi Dancing Friends! It's that time again for some Square Dancing fun!!

We're ON for Friday, **May 3rd for Lessons at 6:30** and **7:45 for Mainstream!**

AND THAT'S NOT ALL!!! Butch was kind enough to put together a **new schedule of dancing** for **new OR newer dancers!** This will help you to not forget all that you've learned these past months. A couple times a month, he'll keep you tuned-up, from 7:00 - 9:00pm. Please **see the flyer attached** below with details!

ALSO, the Montana Mavericks are dancing this **Saturday, May 4 in Plains** at the Senior Citizens Center. 7:00 - 7:30pm is PLUS, 7:30 - 9:30 is Mainstream. Ed Evans is calling, Lorrie Lane is cuing. It's a fun group of dancers so hope you can join them!

That's it for this time. See you in a square!



Lolo

## LOLO 2024 SUMMER SQUARE DANCE FUN

### YELLOWROCK CAMPGROUND



9955 HWY US-12

LOLO, MT



THURSDAY JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> 7:00pm – 9:00pm

THURSDAY JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> 7:00pm – 9:00pm

THURSDAY JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> 7:00pm – 9:00pm

THURSDAY JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> 7:00pm – 9:00pm

THURSDAY AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> 7:00pm – 9:00pm

THURSDAY AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> 7:00pm – 9:00pm



**FOR ALL NEW DANCERS, NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.  
THE EVENING WILL START WITH BASIC SQUARE DANCE MOVES  
WITH MORE EXPERIENCE DANCING 8:30pm – 9:00pm  
CHILDREN UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.**

**For more dance information call or text Butch 208-503-0551.**

**For Camping information call 406-273-0141.**



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*

## Miles City

Prairie Stars, Miles City

Thursday night, May 2, is the last regular dance of the season. We will fire up again on September 19 with beginner lessons and dancing and will continue on Thursday nights through the fall, winter, and spring. As always we are hopeful for the addition of new dancers to our activity.

The only summer dance scheduled is the Forsyth Plus Day, on June 8. This is an afternoon and evening with a meal and is geared to existing Plus Level Dancers. The flyer is shown below and all Plus level dancers are invited. Just let us know by June 1 if you are coming; helps us plan the meal.

Have a great summer!!!!

Lynn and Judy Strobel

P.O. Box 1278

Miles City, MT 59301

406-234-7384 Cell 406-951-1088

[strobell@midrivers.com](mailto:strobell@midrivers.com)

<http://lynnstrobel.tripod.com>

*Miles City*

# *Plus Workshop and Dance*

With

Lynn and Judy Strobel

Sponsored by Prairie Stars Square Dance Club

**\*\*Senior Citizens Center\*\***

**1060 Cedar, Forsyth, MT**

**Saturday June 8, 2024**

*Casual Dress*

**2:30 to 4:30 p.m – Workshop/Plus Dance**

**Dancers should have an understanding of the “Plus Calls”**

**5:00 p.m. – Supper Served; Prepared by  
Dan and Rita Watson**

**6:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Plus Dance**

**Total Program (Supper Included) Only \$25.00/person**

*Please let us know if you are coming; Helps us plan for supper*

**For information contact Lynn and Judy @ 406-234-  
7384**

**Cell 406-951-**

**1088**

**Forsyth Motels Include:**