



Big Sky News Monthly Newsletter



Month Mar | Year 2020 | Big Sky News

Announcement

Wow, sorry this is late this month. I had everything ready, the inputs, the schedules, the desire to publish on 1st Mar knowing that I would be on vacations. But I knew my trusty laptop would not let me down. Well I forgot one thing. The master file I create this from. Arrg, no way to reach back home. So here we are! Back from vacation, no Coronavirus, and putting out the news. BTW – the vacation was GREAT.

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**

A note from the Editor

March already. In just a couple of months we head out to Helena for the Montana State Festival. It should be a blast with Charlie and Kristi Robertson along with Don and Marie Wood giving all of us 2020 vision!

Nationals this year in Spokane Washington. Are you going? We will not have Nationals this close for a number of years. I hope you can attend. Of course with Nationals being in the West there will not be a USA West this year.

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!

It is my pleasure to announce Shirlie Kuykendall submitted a grant to the Helena Tourism Business Program for the Montana State Festival and they awarded \$500 toward expenses for the festival! In addition, some local hotels in Helena will give a discount if you mention you are attending the square dance festival. The hotels are Super 8, Days Inn, and Fairfield Inn. The hotel information is also provided on the link David has provided for the festival registration.

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"

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank David Hinds for continually providing an outstanding newsletter for Montana square dancers and keeping us updated on the news and dances provided in the Big Sky News Monthly Newsletter. David does this as a volunteer and takes his own time and many hours to keep us informed. When you see David in a square or calling, please thank him in person to let him know how much we appreciate all he does!

I look forward to seeing you at the Montana State Festival! Safe travels!

Virgil Kaiser, President of Montana State Festival

*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

The third month already? 2020 is certainly “marching” forward at a record pace. Only makes sense; time is flying because we’re having fun dancing!

A respectable number of Billings folks traveled to Forsyth on January 25 where three squares enjoyed Lynn Strobel’s calling all afternoon and evening. As usual, Rita and Dan coordinated the delicious meal. Thanks to all the Forsyth/Miles City folks for a terrific weekend! We hoped to have some photos to share, but everyone was too busy dancing to take any.

The regularly scheduled dancing continues at Cedar Hall in Billings with beginner/mainstream dancing on Thursdays, Plus on Saturdays, Silhouettes Sunday afternoons and the A workshop the second and fourth Mondays. Snowbird Larry Sperry makes it back to Billings one or twice a month for Silhouettes; the rest of the time Hunter takes over. The Plus dancers also had a rare treat recently when Hunter called for them as well. Thanks for being such a go-to guy, Hunter!

Seems like we’re on a “gain one, lose one” cycle. Gene and Suzette are back to dancing, albeit on a limited basis, as Gene recuperates from surgery. So now Brian is out of commission, also due to surgery. Hope the docs know what they’re doing and the procedures did what they were supposed to do. We miss all these folks and hope they’re better soon!



Our beginners are becoming more adept with every session. Come meet them at the Beginner Hoedown on April 30. We hope they’ll also come to the Magic City Hoedown and then try out some traveling to the State Festival.

The next open dance scheduled at Cedar Hall is the Spring Dance, March 24, with Lynn and Judy covering the calling and Larry and Susan on the rounds. Dancing will go on from 2-4 p.m. and 7:30-10 p.m. The Checkerboard Squares’ Beginner Hoedown is coming April 30 with Bob Hogemark. And mark your calendars for the Magic City Hoedown May 1 and 2 with Bill Henke and Larry and Susan Sperry.

If you’re planning to be in the Billings area, be sure to check our website, squaredancemontana.com where you’ll find listings for many dances throughout the state and elsewhere. Our newsletter, the Grapevine, is also on our website and lists all our dance schedules. Come dance with us; we love visitors!

Club Report Great Falls

by David Hinds

Our new location is great with its beautiful wooden floor, a nice stage the for callers and cuers to work from, easy parking, heated and cooled environment! You can't ask for anything more.

Sons of Norway Hall
1314 7th St S
Great Falls, MT 59405

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

March 21st is Helena's St Patrick's Day dance 4:00 is plus then the potluck and dancing main at 7:00

March 27th is out Roaring 20's dance starting at 6:30 (Gather) pre-rounds 6:45, MS 7:00pm to 9:00pm with Plus tips announced. Caller/Cuer David Hinds

Hope to see everyone at each of these.

Lessons (set 2) started on 12 Jan

March 15th Beginners lessons @ 4:00

March 22nd Beginner lessons @ 4:00

March 29th Beginners lessons.

All dances are held at the Sons of Norway Hall, 1314 7th St. S.

Be sure to check out MontanaSquareDancing.com website for the latest flyers and online schedule.

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

St Patty's day is coming SOON.



Also,

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- Hamilton

All dances are held on Saturdays at the Golden Age Center, 5th & Baker streets in Hamilton. It has a nice wooden floor and plenty of spectator seating.

For more info, Call Ray Dunbar at 370-4414

March 7th 7 – 7:30 Round dance
7:30 – 9:30 Mainstream with Plus tips
Round dancing between tips

March 14th 7 – 7:30 Plus/Rounds
ST PATS DANCE 7:30 – 9:30 Mainstream with Plus tips

March 21st 7 – 7:30 Rounds
7:30 – 9:30 Mainstream with Plus tips

March 28th 7 - 7:30 Plus
7:30 - 9:30 Mainstream with Plus tips



Club Report Helena

by Cathy Kaiser

Helena Last Chance Squares recently held a Valentine's dance complete with Valentine charades, dancing and games.

We are looking forward to March 21st when Raeburn Osmond from Wendell, ID, will be calling. We will begin at 4 pm with plus dancing and a potluck at 6 before an evening of rounds, mainstream and plus dancing. We would consider to have the luck 'o the Irish if you could join! Please see attached flyer in the upcoming dances tab for more information.

In addition, our spring fling will be held on April 18th with Rick and Kathy Utter from Wickenburg, AZ, calling and cueing. Please put this on your calendar and join us. For more information please see the flyer in the upcoming dances tab.

We continue to have round dance lessons on Monday evenings with an hour of mainstream and plus. We have dances the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month at Broadwater Elementary Gym.

Please checkout and like our Facebook page! You might see a picture of yourself somewhere in the mix!



Hey take a look at our flyers on www.MontanaSquareDancing.com You don't want to miss our special dances.

Club Report Kalispell

by Roger Jones

No input for Mar 2020



Club Report Libby

by Jo Wilson

No input for Mar 2020



Club Report Miles City

by Lynn Strobel

Prairie Stars

Miles City Montana

We are still alive and kicking at Prairie Stars in Miles City, dancing most Thursday nights from the end of September through April. We then try to schedule one dance a month through the summer months. Please watch the Lynn Strobel website for scheduled dances, or call us if you are headed this way and would like to join us. We always like visiting dancers or just visitors.

We held lessons for new dancers this year, starting the first part of November with ten new dancers. We ended our formal lessons with two couples, the wife of one of our existing dancers, and one single fellow. After several years of minimal interest from new dancers, we considered this a great success. When you regularly dance two squares, six new dancers is a jackpot. We all know the extra energy that new dancers bring to our great activity!

For the past several years, Prairie Stars has hosted a "Plus Day" the fourth Saturday in January with an afternoon workshop, an evening meal, and an evening dance. We hold this dance in Forsyth. This year we had three squares attend with dancers from Spearfish, South Dakota, Powell, Wyoming, Denver, Colorado, the Billings area along with our own members. We always order good weather and good roads and this year we were blessed with both; temperatures in the 40's and no ice. Fingers crossed for next year.

That will about wrap it up for this time. Do take care and "Happy Dancing".



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



No input for Mar 2020

Club Report Plains

by Darlene Jolly

The “**MONTANA MAVERICKS**” February 2020 dance enjoyed almost 4 squares of dancers including 16 guests. 2 from Kalispell & 3 were from HooDoo Valley club in north Idaho, 1 from Coeurly Q’s club in No. Idaho, 8 from Missoula area & 2 from Whitefish..

Adam Christman called & cued the dance as Lorrie **FINALLY HAD HER SURGERY ON THE 22nd** of January. Now for recovery. We’re hoping she’ll be back soon. Our 3 students attended again & did well. They’ll be a great addition to our group. Michael Murray is doing well keeping them going till Lorrie returns.

October thru May we dance the first Saturday in Plains at the Sr. Ctr. – 2nd Saturday June & September at the Sr. Ctr & 2nd weekend of August is our campout in Ronan at the Diamond S - except for special circumstances. The Sr. Ctr is behind the VFW (which is clearly seen from the main street). It is on the block behind it & facing the same direction – so come & join us.

Any questions call Darlene at 826-8951.

