



Big Sky News Square Dancing

March Edition | Year 2024 | Big Sky News

Announcement

March 2024 – Reminder: This is the month that has St. Patrick’s Day in it. Be sure to take care of your Lads and Lassies.

It is only a short time away from the Montana State Square Dance Festival. It is a good time to get your plans made and registrations in.

There is a change of Editors happening. Dave Hinds has graciously accepted my offer to do the Big Sky News, MontanaSquareDancing.com, and KnotheadJamboree.com. During the transition, we will both be working together to get things posted and up on the sites. You may send information and articles to: 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

As March is here, I see the clubs having fun dancing. It is nice to be able to share updated information on the Montana Square Dancing site. It is your news that will help everyone have a good time.

I know that it is great to find new things to do and groups to associate with. But it is always wise to contact them ahead of time. The contact can help you with where and when to fit in for the most fun.

Please support the various clubs in the State. They have lessons, dances, special dances, and meetings that all promote the fun of square dancing.

Thank You for letting me do this.

A personal Note: I will not be updating the website from 03/10/2024 to 03/17/2024. I will be having a minor surgery and need the time to recuperate.

Jim Fuller

GOOD NEWS:

Last Chance Squares in Helena will be hosting a ST Patrick's Dance. Please see their page for more information.

Butch Suttey reports the clubs in Butte and Dillon are having lessons and having fun.

Billings Groups are doing well. We 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.

On Going Project:

I will be contacting Callers and Cuers as this gets going. I hope to have an area for information to contact them with links to their websites, etc.

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

Scootback 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 Zip Code

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

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

At the bottom of the flyer, there are several logos: 'Live Lively - Square Dance!' with a stylized figure, 'INSTY-PRINTS' with a rainbow bar, 'BUTTE'S FINEST LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED FULL SERVICE PRINTING AND COPY SHOP 130 W. PARK BUTTE, MONTANA', 'KBOW 550AM 101.5FM', '94.1FM KOPR Butte, MT', 'MAGIC', and '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 are excited about a busy spring of dancing!

Plus square dance lessons start March 2nd and go through mid-May; round dance lessons also start March 2nd and go through mid-April.

We have a regular club dance on March 9th and our St. Patty's Day dance on March 16th with guest caller Lynn Strobel from Miles City.

The current class of mainstream dancers will graduate on March 18th. For information on upcoming club dances or lessons, please check out our website at <https://www.helenalastchancesquares.com/>

Our club has put in a request to hold the Montana State Square and Round Dance Festival in 2026!"

Dance Location: Bill Hamilton Building, 98 West Custer Ave, Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds, Helena, MT

Flyers and registration are available on our website at www.helenalastchancesquares.com

St. Patrick's Dance

March 16, 2024

Sponsored by: Last Chance Squares
Helena, Montana



Location: Bill Hamilton Building
Fairgrounds: 98 West Custer Ave

Caller: Lynn Strobel {Miles City}

Cuer: Glen Tusler {Helena}

Plus - 3:30- 5:00pm

Pot Luck - 5:30-6:30pm

Rounds - 6:30-7:00pm

MS/Plus - 7:00-9:00pm



Cost: \$15 per person. or
\$10 per person for evening only



Plains

MONTANA MAVERICKS

Plains

More dance fun in Plains!

Montana Mavericks had their March dance on Saturday the 2nd. Adam Christman called and Lorrie Lane cued. We had 3 to 4 brightly colored squares as the theme was Luau, and most everyone wore Hawaiian shirts. The music and decorations were tropical.

Our next dance is April 6th, with Butch Suttty calling and Lorrie Lane cueing. The date our students will be promoted (or graduated) is April 12.

If the weather holds, let's join the fun at the Sr Center!

Any questions contact Darlene at 406-826-8951.

Billings

Hello from Billings!

Escaping from the parking lot at the Metra has been an adventure lately, with M.A.T.E., wrestling and assorted concerts. Now it's the basketball tournaments, but as long as they keep the back gate open, we have a chance!

Our newest dancers are advancing nicely. Travel, work and the various "bugs" that float around this time of year take some of them away now and then, but we're happy to see that they do come back!

We're all looking forward to the Spring Dance with Lynn and Judy Strobel. That's happening on March 23 with a workshop from 2-4 in the afternoon and the main event from 7-9 that evening. You'll find the flyer on our website, squaredancemontana.com. See you there!

May 1 is the deadline for the early registration discount, so sign up soon for the State Festival happening Memorial Day weekend. Let's fill Cedar Hall to the brim!

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter to all! (Boy, this is a festive month!)

Ann Hindley, reporter

Lolo

Solo Stars in Lolo

Lessons are going well at the Lolo Community Center, thanks to Butch Suttley coming to teach our Friday eve class. Our several new dancers are enjoying themselves so that makes it fun for all.

We're all looking forward to dancing at the Yellowrock Dance Center, beginning May 31 with our Mountain Mixer. You can find the summer dance schedule at www.yellowrockcampground.com/, then click on “gather” at the top.

Hope to see you in a square soon!
Debby, for Solo Stars

Lolo

SOLO STARS WINTER DANCE SCHEDULE JOIN US FOR SQUARE DANCE FUN LOLO COMMUNITY CENTER 12345 US 93, Lolo, MT

SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY thru MAY 2024

LESSONS STARTING AT 6:30 – 7:45 DANCE - 7:45 to 9:00
\$5.00 FOR LESSONS - FULL EVENING \$7.00

January 5th - No Lessons (Dance Only at 6:30)

~~January 12th - Lessons & Dance Cancelled for bad weather/roads~~

January 26th - Lessons & Dance

February 2nd - Lessons & Dance

February 9th - Lessons & Dance

February 23rd - Lessons & Dance

~~March 1st - Lessons & Dance Cancelled~~

March 8th - Lessons & Dance

March 22nd - Lessons & Dance

April 5th - Lessons & Dance

April 12th - Lessons & Dance

April 26th - Lessons & Dance

May 3rd - Lessons & Dance

May 17th - Lessons & Dance

CHILDREN UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Times subject to change due to weather, etc. Check your e-mail.

FOR INFO. CALL:

Butch Suttley @ 208-503-0551 or

Tim Casey @ 406-218-8677

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 McNeese, 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*