



FLY-IN ROUNDUP

Another annual Fly-In is behind us and it proved to be one of the best. A large contingent came from Cleveland and much fun and worthwhile dancing experience was gained by many. Don and Drew joined Joe and Tim in providing us with some great calling and once again our Western Party proved to be a terrific community success. Slightly less people than the previous party meant more space on the dance floor. A better balance of music gave more opportunity for line dances as well as a sudden introduction to square dancing.

Stephen, our Events Coordinator, the Steering Committee and a whole host of helpers, are to be congratulated on their efforts over the weekend. Many thanks.

Now everyone is talking about two UPCOMING DATES OF IMPORTANCE.

MAY 11 - SATURDAY MAINSTREAM WORKSHOP: 1 - 4:30, 680 QUEEN'S QUAY WEST. JOE CALLING FOR COMPLETE REVIEW OF MAINSTREAM MOVES. ALL MAINSTREAM DANCERS (AND ANGELS, TOO, PLEASE) SHOULD PLAN TO BE THERE.

MAY 25 - 27 "CAST A SHADOW IN THE SUN": 8TH. ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS CONVENTION,

BAL HARBOR, FLORIDA.

Our annual Fly-In was just a taste of the fun to be had at the annual convention when representatives of close to 40 clubs will come together to square dance. Around twenty Triangle Squares' dancers are already planning to attend.

Registration forms and accommodation forms are still available. Make your own accommodation arrangements by calling the convention hotel. Sharing a room will bring down your costs.

Several people have asked for some kind of orientation as to what to expect at the convention, so here goes...

Although there is an Early Bird Dance in another location, the first full evening of dancing takes place Thursday night in the convention hotel. Different rooms are set aside for the various levels of dancing so find the room you feel most comfortable in. Breaks in between tips are short and, in order to get close to the loudspeakers, people start forming squares before the caller plays the music. Single dancers will square up raising their left hand if they need a Lead and their right hand if they need a Follow. Don't be shy about dancing with strangers. Introduce yourself around the square, concentrate and listen carefully to the caller; you'll have lots of fun. Tim gave us a very good hint at the Fly-In: "Dance with your eyes"; meaning, look around you, don't watch your feet; do observe the flow of the dancing. Also, make eye-contact with partners when you Do Sa Do or Swing.

Smile and be friendly. You'll enjoy yourself more this way.

Try to pace yourself throughout the convention; there is a lot of dancing and much to do; early burnout is to be avoided.

During the day there are workshops for various levels. If you feel unsure of some moves at your level, take the workshop at that level and brush up. Only take the workshop at the next level if you feel totally confident of your present ability.

If you stay in the convention hotel you'll find that changing clothes and freshening up are that much easier. Take as many casual clothes as possible. People dance in shorts and t-shirts; it gets hot, you'll get hot. Drink fluids, don't overeat.

On Friday night there is the Grand March. This is a major event and should not be missed. It is also an American event so marching and group dynamics are important on this occasion. All the clubs form up as units and process into the largest assembly hall. Dancers may go in four abreast, then at the front of the hall one line of four goes left, the next line goes right (pay attention to what the marshals are telling you to do). When you meet at the back of the hall you join up with another four dancers and come forward as a line of eight. One eight-some then goes left, the next goes right and you march around and come together as sixteen. This pattern is repeated until you may be in a line of thirty-two or more across. The American and Canadian anthems are sung (make sure you know the words to both!) and there is much cheering and excitement.

A ceremonial dance tip for all is then called, after which most people change back into casual clothes and proceed to dance up another storm at their various levels.

Another major event is the Honky Tonk Queen Contest in which various Triangle Squares' members have participated and shone! The costumes are terrific and there are lots of laughs here. Take your camera; get there early in order to get a good vantage point.

The Fun Badge Tour has been very heavily booked this year but do try to go on it if possible. Dancers load into buses and are taken to various points of interest where, at each one, they dance a single singing call. Try to get close to the loudspeakers; dress casually. Part of the fun of this event is the expressions on the face of bystanders. My best memories of this event at previous conventions: dancing on the Concourse of Grand Central Station in New York, a truly magnificent moment; and amazing family groups in the Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver surrounded by blossoms and snow-touched peaks. At the end of the Tour you receive small unique "dangle" badges to commemorate your participation.

Special sweatshirts, badges, bolos and collar tips are available in booths at the convention. The night of the Grand March each club contingent is formally photographed.

Go: make friends: dance up a storm: enjoy. These conventions are great events; you'll feel a sense of pride and community spirit that is not to be missed!

SUMMER DANCE SURVEY: Last year we danced till the end of July. Same this year? Tell Herman.