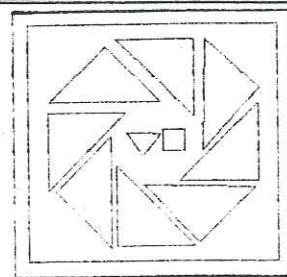


TRIANGLE SQUARES NEWSLETTER



Newsletter of Toronto Triangle Squares

August 1993

STOPPED DANCING? TRY US AGAIN!

If you're one of the people that didn't make it through the full Basic/Mainstream course, WE MISS YOU! We're sending you this newsletter to tell you that we're still here and we'd love you to try again in the Fall.

People drop out of square-dancing for a variety of reasons; did you miss a couple of nights and then feel you were too far behind and wouldn't catch up? Or maybe you were in just one too many square breakdowns; maybe a friend stopped going, so you stopped too. Whatever your reason we'd like you to consider making square-dancing one of your activities, again, this Fall.

We've found over the years that everyone learns at a different speed; that some moves come easily, others take many repetitions to sink in. But those that stick with it get to experience the real enjoyment of square-dancing; the high from a square of eight people getting through a "tip" all in one piece; the pleasure of being able to respond to the Caller's choreography; and even just the community thing of interacting with friends on a regular square-dance evening.

We're having a number of Introductory Nights again after Labour Day and then the Basic Class will start up in earnest. So, there'll be a whole new bunch of dancers to meet and what you learned before will come back to you very quickly. **SO COME ON OUT TO SQUARE-DANCING AGAIN!**

PIC OF THE MONTH



Didn't these guys say they **ONLY** had time to eat, sleep and dance at the Seattle convention?! Hmmm.....

NEW DEMO TEAM CO-ORDINATOR!

It was just one of those mysterious intersections of time and fate -- **Don Cheff** wanted to lay down the "burden" of co-ordinating the Demonstration Team and I needed a fresh excuse to avoid finishing my dissertation -- so here I am as the new co-ordinator of the team. My first order of business is to thank Don for his hard work in promoting gay and lesbian square dancing both in our own community and the sometimes startled (but always entertained) population-at-large.

For those of you who don't know me, perhaps just a bit of biography is in order. My partner, **Catherine Tompkins**, and I joined the Toronto Triangle Squares in 1991 when we moved to Ontario from San Francisco where we had danced and performed with the **Foggy City Dancers** for quite a few years. To be perfectly candid, I wasn't at all certain that I could ever make the transition from the City of St. Francis and my much loved friends there. Well, I'm still incredibly homesick but the wonderful bunch of people I have come to know at Triangle Squares have made the adjustment much less painful than it might have been. It's true that I still sometimes think we're more into aerobics than square dancing but I also can honestly say I have never had more fun!

(Continued on page 2)

DANCING AT THE C.N.E.!

Last summer was the first time that Triangle Squares made an appearance at the C.N.E. We did a Mainstream demo in the central court of the Better Living Building; **Anne Uebelacker** called for us and even though the heat melted the records on the turntable (literally!), we had a lot of fun. Anne identified us as Ontario's only gay and lesbian club, people got to know us and saw that we could dance well.

It happened that way because we told the organizers that we would only dance between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m., but dancers from other clubs turned-up when they could and danced at various sites within the Ex to the Caller that had been allocated to that time and place. So, dancing took place on the hour, for about thirty minutes a time, from noon till 5:00 p.m. After that, there was a two-hour Jamboree dance at 7:30 on an open-air performance stage by the Better Living Building.

All this was meant to promote the activity to the general
(Continued on page 2)

NEW DEMO TEAM CO-ORDINATOR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

I feel truly honored to be able to give something back to you all for the warm welcome which you extended to Cath and I (especially since some of you quite mistakenly thought I was a wit...shall be say...difficult to get to know). Chris suggested that I might want to put this article in the newsletter outlining some of my thoughts and ideas about possible directions the Demo Team might choose to take over the next little while.

first and foremost, in case any of you are a little wary -- I have no desire to see our team become a carbon copy of the Foggy City Performance Team. We have our own unique style here that I want to maximize, not minimize. I think, however, that I learned a few things with Foggy City that we could use to make our team better without sacrificing any of our special brand of enthusiastic, high-energy dancing.

My highest priority would be on adding a little more polish to our exhibitions through regular practices and more frequent performances. Ideally, I would like to see us learn a repertoire of varied numbers that we could perform on short notice and in a variety of settings. I think it would be great if we could perform more often at benefits for the gay and lesbian community as well as continue to make ourselves more visible in the larger community, especially in the mainstream square dance community. I believe our presence on **Breakfast TV** and at functions like the C.N.E. and the Hamilton convention are invaluable opportunities to let the general population see first-hand what great folks (and dancers) we are!

I would also like us to begin to develop some of our own choreography and to use fewer recorded vocals. We have an abundance of calling and choreographic talent at Triangle Squares (**Andy, Chris, Don, and Drew** that I know of -- are there more of you?) that I would love to see further developed for exhibitions. Of course, I would love for us to give the other teams a little competition at our annual IAGSDC conventions -- again, not by copying them but through developing our own trademark style.

All of this will require, of course, a greater time commitment than team membership has necessitated in the past. There are also a few logistical issues to tackle to make this all work -- e.g., we need to work out a regular time and place to practice. I'd be thrilled if some of the present team members would be willing to take on some extra duties -- e.g., someone to be a king of "public relations" (or booking) manager who would aggressively pursue performance opportunities for the team; someone else to be on the lookout for new music; and, as I suggested, a choreographer. I understand that **Richard "The Straight"** (a.k.a. **Richard Stoveld**, our beloved Treasurer) has volunteered to be my Toronto contact "hub". (He is such a sweet guy, I would swear he is gay!) Thanks, Richard!

Finally, I would like to see us become more "democratic" in our structure. There is no reason that team members must be dancing at the Advanced level. Dancers at the

Plus level can be just as good performance team dancers! What is more important than the dancing level is that an individual be fairly quick on the uptake (I know, how did some of us make it?!), flexible, and a "strong lead" and/or "graceful follow". It worked out well in San Francisco to put out a call for new members once a year or so and have prospective members put to a vote by the current team members. (Editor's note: Watch for announcements in upcoming issues of the newsletter.)

Well -- that's it in a nutshell. I would love to hear from the rest of you -- any ideas, comments, criticisms (try to avoid the PMS days for the latter)? Most of all, thank you to my friends at Triangle Squares who have helped to fill the terrible hole in my heart.

Sandy Zimmeman

DANCING AT THE C.N.E.!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

public. When the Triangle Squares dance in public it shows that you don't need to be retired or a grandparent to enjoy square-dancing, you also don't need to wear pettipients (although some of the **Triangle Tarts** have been known to!) and you have more choice over who you dance with, too!

This year, there might be two complete squares from Triangle Squares. Also, don St. Jean says he is willing to call for a couple of slots at 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. We could therefore offer to dance in more than one location for more than just the one time slot. Some dancers and callers from other clubs (mainly the men) might not feel comfortable having us join their squares as same-sex couples, so we would probably have to form our own squares for afternoon dancing, and then see if we were invited to join other squares, or if they wanted to square-up with us.

At the time of going to press, we don't have a clear picture of how the organizers of the event see us fitting-in. However, the first sixteen people to fill in an application will receive a free day pass to the C.N.E. So, call **Chris at 960-5458** and sign-up. Even if you don't want to dance, why not make that the day you go to the "Ex" and then you can cheer us on?

TRIANGLE TRASH

Strawberry Dickquiri is on vacation but will return in the next exciting edition!

AUGUST CLUB NIGHT WITH GUEST CALLER: TIM CRAWFORD!

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR THIS FUN EVENING OF DANCING AND SOCIALIZING FOR ALL DANCERS (MAINSTREAM TO ADVANCED)

AUGUST 19 AT 7:00 P.M.

IAGSDC CONVENTION REPORT

The Executive Board of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC), consisting of Representatives and Alternates from each club, met at the annual convention in Seattle. I attended as the Triangle Squares representative, along with **Alan Deamley** as the alternate representative.

four new full member clubs were admitted: **Mountain Laurel Squares** of Hartford, CT (raised to full member), **Rocket City Rainbow Squares** of Huntsville, AL, **Cadillac Squares** of Detroit, MI, and **Diablo Dancers** of Concord, CA. I, also, met someone who is trying to start **Citadel Squares** in Halifax, NS, which would be the 4th Canadian club!

The IAGSDC has been more active than in the past in its communication and outreach program, with a toll-free number for queries, advertising in straight square dance magazines, and passing out information at straight events. However, it has to raise additional funds to meet these continued goals. As a result, membership dues have been raised from \$25.00 per club to \$2.00 per member of the club (Triangle Squares has approximately 60 members). This will help the smaller clubs with limited cash flow to pay less, and the larger clubs to take more responsibility financially to help them.

Upcoming conventions are:

- 1994 **Washington, DC** (July 4th weekend)
- 1995 **Chicago** (Memorial Day weekend)
- 1996 **San Francisco** (weekend after Pride Day)
- 1997 **Las Vegas** (bid only - not confirmed)
- 1998 **Portland** (bid only - not confirmed)
- 1999 **New York** (bid only - not confirmed)
- 2000 **Toronto/Vancouver/Baltimore** (bids only)

The IAGSDC will not officially change its name, but will add the words "A Lesbian and Gay Organization" to all future uses of its name, as feasible. This was decided after much debate about the inclusiveness of the word "gay" and the administrative and legal complications.

The IAGSDC will form a committee to see if it should regulate and sanction Advanced & Challenge weekends.

The book which documents the first 10 years of the IAGSDC is now available for purchase. We have purchased a copy for our club, which can be loaned upon request (speak to Chris if you are interested in borrowing it). If you are interested in purchasing your own personal copy, they are available for \$20.00 U.S. (see myself for who to contact).

Andy Chong

A2/C1-4 CONVENTION

In June, I attended this annual straights convention in Louisville, KY. Levels ranged from A2 up to C4!

Dancers had a more casual attitude towards clothing: formal square dance attire was requested only for the evening sessions (editor's note: gay square dance clubs

tend to be more informal, also, with no dress codes), while any reasonable casual clothing could be worn for morning and afternoon sessions.

Of over 1,000 dancers, there were at least 40 dancers from various IAGSDC clubs, and friends. They were not shy about dancing in non-traditional couple formations, and usually found a square to dance with.

Next year, the convention returns to its base in Virginia Beach. I recommend that our A2 dancers try this one (or another A & C in Toledo in August) to see if they can dance to the best callers around. Maybe they can make a holiday out of it by touring the east coast, attending the Stonewall 25 celebrations in New York, and Chain Down the Northeast on their way to the IAGSDC convention!

Andy Chong

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. If you would like to place an ad to buy/sell/rent/friendship, etc., call Chris at 960-5458 or Alan at 266-4634.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Chris Homer
Secretary	Alan Dearnley
Treasurer	Richard Stoveld
Publicity Co-Ordinator	Stephen Holmes
IAGSDC Representative	Andy Chong

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor	Chris Homer
Assistant Editor	Alan Dearnley
Contributors	Sandy Zimmerman
	Andy Chong
Photographer	Herman Pat

DEMO TEAM COMMITTEE

Co-Ordinator	Sandy Zimmerman
Assistant Co-Ordinator	Richard Stoveld

FLY-IN 1994 COMMITTEE

To be announced

MAILING ADDRESS

TRIANGLE SQUARES
552 CHURCH ST., BOX #57
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4Y 2E3

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are always needed by our club to help in various ways for one evening, a specific project or event, or on an on-going basis. The choice is yours. If you would like to help (or be "on-call" if we need your help) please call Chris at 960-5458 and let him know.

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 HOLIDAY	3	4 STEERING COMMITTEE	5	6	7
8	9 ADVANCED AT ANDY'S	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19: 7-10 CLUB NIGHT TIM CRAWFORD	20	21
22	23 ADVANCED AT ANDY'S	24	25	26	27	28
29 DANCING AT THE C.N.E.	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 STEERING COMMITTEE	2	3	4
5	6 HOLIDAY	7	8	9	10	11: 7:30 INTRO NIGHT/ DANCE PARTY
12	13: 7:00 A1/2 REVIEW ORDE ST. SCHOOL	14	15: 7:00 BASIC INTRO CHURCH ST. SCHOOL	16: 7:00 MS/PLUS REVIEW 519 CHURCH ST.	17	18
19	20 A2/C1 CLASSES BEGIN	21	22: 7:00 BASIC INTRO CHURCH ST. SCHOOL	23 PLUS CLASSES BEGIN	24	25
26	27 A2/C1 CLASS	28	29 BASIC CLASSES BEGIN	30 PLUS		

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 A-2/C-1 CLASS ORDE ST. SCHOOL	5	6 BASIC CLASS CHURCH ST. SCHOOL	7 PLUS CLASS 519 CHURCH ST.	8 LOAD THE BOAT III CLEVELAND	9 LOAD THE BOAT III CLEVELAND
10 LOAD THE BOAT III CLEVELAND	11 A-2/C-1 CLASS	12	13 BASIC CLASS	14 PLUS CLASS	15	16
17	18 A-2/C-1 CLASS	19	20 BASIC CLASS	21 PLUS CLASS	22	23
24/31 HALLOWEEN	25 A-2/C-1 CLASS	26	27 BASIC CLASS	28 PLUS CLASS	29	30