

TRIANGLE SQUARES NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1999

Welcome back to reality! Time to dance off the excess turkey and stuffing! Hope everyone had a great holiday. I would like to wish you all the Best for 1999!

Now for the nitty gritty!

Fees are now overdue for the Winter Session of classes. The amount required is \$50.00 for twelve weeks. We accept cash, cheques and money orders. Unfortunately we do not take it out in trade....although it is a thought! (Bad thought! Bad thought!)

Please note that telephone number for Bruce Harrigan was listed incorrectly in the last newsletter. The correct number is 510-1704. Oops! Sorry!

From the Outside Looking In- by Fay Pitman from London, Ontario

You are young, enthusiastic, energetic, and well dressed-unless the Tarts are having a bad hair day! (*Eileen's note-the Tarts have a bad hair day-not in this lifetime!*)

You are a kind, caring generous fun bunch of people.

The first time I saw a gay square, dancing quite alone at the back of the hall, my thoughts were 'how long before we feel comfortable dancing together'-this is already changing! Kevin Cassidy introduced me to Triangle Squares on the Saturday of your 1997 Fly-In. Prior to this I had met some of you at Hamilton (T& D Convention), and this year because of a certain someone (no names mentioned eh David White!) asked at least 12 times if I would be at the Fly-In. I took the plunge and decided to attend the whole weekend. The friendliness and fun was a repeat of the previous year and I had a gracious host (you can pay me at the end of the month, Brian) who even understands my English-you may read warped-sense of humor.

When I danced with Kevin in London and we were in a "good" square we would switch places. One caller, not realizing we had done this, proceeded to get us back home on what he thought was the right place. Meanwhile the rest of the floor was a mess. (*Editors note-Is that something they learned from us??*)

Having said all that I really don't feel like an outsider, after all what is square dancing but friendship put to music.

(Editors Note-Fay and I have been dancing at all nights in Guelph as well at various other straight and gay dances she can persuade me to go to. She has more energy than many of us-but I am not sure who has corrupted who! We will see Fay at many weekend functions in the future as well as this years Fly-In-she won the free registration at last years Fly-In. She is a wonderful woman and I am happy to say that she is a good friend).

Gabriola Getaway Women's Weekend WOW! by Keltie Creed

Better than Ice Cream! Yes, I'd even be willing to give up Hagen Daz, Laura Secord Chocolate Fudgy Yogurt and all my treats for the next 2 years if that was the only way to get back to Gabriola Island for the Square Dance Women's next all women event in 2000. Now to be honest, I'd try saving air miles and looking for seat sales first, but I have not had so much fun and such a feeling of connection with other women since the early days of the Michigan Women's Music Festival.

We were 50 women, a wonderful cross-section of ages, cultures and dance levels, who laughed and danced our way through the mild September weekend. Gabriola is a beautiful small island just off Nanaimo, BC. On the first ferry to Vancouver Island, you could already tell who the dancers were. Oh, there is something about those women! By the time we took the smaller ferry to Gabriola, a square had already formed and convinced Kris Jensen to call a tip on the car deck. They couldn't wait to get started! Home for the weekend was Haven by the Sea, quite a find in itself. The setting, like the company, was striking. The dining room looked out past trees and a totem pole to the misty Gulf rolling amongst sculpted sandstone. A quiet carnival of greens and blues. The cabins, nestled further in the trees were spacious and comfortable. Raccoons, deer and even distant sea lions tolerated our presence, reminding us that we were only visitors. *(Editor's note-Sounds like even the beauty of the Tarts couldn't match this!)*

Then the dancing began. Anne Uebelacker and Kris Jensen treated 4 squares of women to their best calling laced liberally with dry humor and a touch of flirting. It was intoxicating. We hooted, we laughed, and we danced up a storm. Naturally, that made the two hot tubs very popular. The inside, "clothing optional" tub hardly had room for any water!

On Saturday, between the workshops, we had the chance to explore the sandstone galleries, fascinating erosion patterns carving deep into the heart of the shore. *(Editor's note- Sure you were not looking closely at the face of a Tart- "deep erosion patterns"- come on!)*

New dancers were welcomed and helped along. In fact, after the Basic workshop half of us packed into cars to head into town to an art/artifact/gift shop where the locals awaited our virginal *(Editor's note-yeah right!)* demo square. There was room for a second square so Anne call a lively and enthusiastic Basic tip in a loft brimming with people and art. I was lucky enough to partake and it was great fun.

More women joined us for the Saturday evening dance, bringing us up to 5 squares. Even with additional two stepping and more hot tubs, most of us stilled managed to make it to Sunday breakfast of thick French Toast with homemade raspberry and blueberry collis, (mmmm), and on to square up for our final session.

By that time, the dancing had seeped buoyant and vibrant into my soul. It was hard to stop. To ease the transition, one final square was called acappella on the return ferry. It was cold and windy, but worth it.

All in all, it was a wonderful experience. I met some great women, danced my heart out, enjoyed the resort and even got my first dangle (*Editor's note-yeah-but for what!!!!*) The only problem is that they will not be having another gathering until September of 2000. At least that gives me time to budget for it. Let's see-if I put aside a dollar a day and find a seat sale, I could do it. And so could you. Hope to see you there, in a square.

Presidential Message: from our President Nancy Deadman

What better activity on a winter's night than to don one's boots and winter wear to plow through the drifts to Square Dancing! Thanks to everyone for making the effort. (Although, with the heat at the 519 it's not hard to pretend you're in Florida)

The search continues for an equipment manager. Contrary to the rumors, the individual does not have to be 'well equipped', just have a little time and space available. If you would like to become Triangle Squares "first" Equipment Manager, please give me a call or even if you just have questions. (No, a uniform hasn't been designated to date; perhaps that call could go out to Crystal!)

NEW for 1999, is the revival of a class rep for each level. Lorne Lundquist is representing the Basic/Mainstream class (and doing a great job I might add), so we need someone for Plus, A1/A2 and Challenge. We would look to the volunteer as a conduit for feedback from the class with comments, problems, etc. The time commitment required would be fairly small, I will probably touch base on a monthly basis and the rep will not be required to go to any Steering Committee meetings (unless they wish to). So don't hesitate to give me a call if you wish to step forward. Once again thanks for your support!

IAGSDC 2002 Convention Bid Follow-Up from Nancy Deadman

The Co-Chairs have been selected for the 2002 IAGSDC Convention Committee. They are: Michel Bagchus for Operations

John Bailey for Financial and Legal

Brian Wilding for Publicity, Advertising and Marketing

I'm sure they will be knocking on some doors soliciting our help as they putting the bid together. If you would like to help out, please contact the co-chairs directly.

I would like to thank everyone who submitted an application or were involved in providing input, assistance and/or advice in soliciting and selecting the Committee.

My best wishes to the Co-chairs! Certainly the Steering Committee will support them in any way we can and we are counting on your support as well. How does it go?..... Ask not what the convention can do for you but what can you do for the convention!!!!

Triangle Squares Website Comes Out!! By Keltie Creed

Did you know that Triangle Squares now has a new URL (universal resource locator or Internet address) for their website? In fact did you even know that we HAD a website? The IAGSDC (International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs) hosts homepages for member clubs, and our very own is found at <http://.iagsdc.org/trianglesquares/>. Our previous page was not "out" in that if you bookmarked it, it recorded itself with a discreet "homepage". That made it rather difficult to find again if you if you have a lot of bookmarks. Now, however, we are identified by the marker "Toronto Triangle Squares".

We have not yet made many changes to the original content or format, except to update the information. However, suggestions and contributions are welcome. Some of the articles from our newsletter will be reprinted in a new section, so here is your chance for global fame.

It also could be a very effective tool in our bid for the IAGSDC Convention in 2002. We could have a separate section outlining why it would be such a great location potential plans, etc. It may just tip the balance in our favor if we have something to show voting delegates.

If you have an idea, photos or an article please contact Keltie Creed at kelt@canada.com or at Plus/A1 class. Photos will require written permission of all individuals portrayed before being published.

Basic Dance-February 20th, 1999 by Costa Roussakis

The Toronto & District Square and Round Dance Association is holding a dance for all new Basic dancers. The dance will be held at Agincourt Collegiate (Midland north of Sheppard) in Scarborough at 8:00 PM on Saturday Feb 20th. We will try to arrange car pooling. Everyone is welcome, both Basic dancers and anyone who would like to come and support us. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Interested people please see Costa.

T-Shirt Sale by David Whitney

Remember the great black *Scoot Across the Border '98* t-shirts from last year's fly-in? Wish you had bought one or could use another one? Well, now is your chance! There are 5 shirts left in XL and XXL. They are a bargain at the **below cost** of \$10.00. They are sure to sell quickly so if you would like one, speak to **David Whitney** at any club dance or call **905-457-7147**.

Scoot Across the Border '99 by David Whitney

Did you forget to register for *Scoot Across the Border '99* at the early bird rate? Well don't you fret your little crinoline. From **now until April 1st** you can still register at the bargain rate of \$60.00.

A total of 60 dancers took advantage of the early bird rate. We'll have a great turn out again this year and your committee is working hard to make it the best one yet. We have some surprises planned so watch your Newsletter for further information about this year's theme and our Saturday Night Costume Ball.

It's a hard act to follow but we are working on a design for a T-shirt that will be just as striking as last years. It was so popular that they sold out at the trail in dance before the fly-in even started! We had to order another 36 to fill the requests. To be certain that you get one this year, as soon as the price is set, we'll give you a chance to pre-order for pick-up at the fly-in.

Remember to mark **May 28-31** on your calendar and be ready to dance till your feet hurt at *Scoot Across the Border '99*.

CLUB NIGHTS by Chris Homer

Wednesday February 24, 1999 at Jesse Ketchum Public School
(Bay and Davenport, parking lot access from Berryman St., which is one way off Davenport) Caller: Barry Clasper Time: 7-9 PM

Levels will be Basic to C1. Be sure to be there on time as not to miss any dancing at your level. This is a great opportunity to dance with and see the progress made by the Basic class under the guidance of Costa Roussakis.

February Birthday greetings go to:

Richard Howard	2 nd	John Drew*	6 th
Steve Ward*	6 th	John Urekar*	7 th
Bruce Harrigan	7 th	Wil Thomson	14 th
Steve McKeown	19 th	Steve Shaw	22 nd
Chris Homer	28 th	Nelson Maheu	28 th

Steering Committee Contacts

President	Nancy Deadman	462-0617
Secretary	Mike Ball	466-8522
Treasurer	Pamela Newey	698-5563
LAGSDC Rep	Bruce Harrigan	510-1704
Publicity	Holly Price/Joanne LaPlante	762-9257
Associate Rep	Lorne Lundquist	905-270-4958
Newsletter Editor*	Brian Croker	925-8387
Fly In Chairman*	David Whitney	905-457-7147

*Not on the Committee but important numbers to have handy.

Please feel free to contact any of the above for any questions or problems that you may have. **If you move or change your telephone number, please call and advise Pamela.** In order for us to keep you informed, you need to keep us informed.

Don't forget to check the Xtra hotline number for changes to dance schedules, cancellations due to weather, and upcoming events. That number is 925-9872 ex 2014.

PLEASE NOTE: THE BASIC CLASS FOR JANUARY 27, 1999 WILL BE AT 15 MAITLAND PLACE AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED TIME.