

# TRIANGLE SQUARES NEWSLETTER

## MAY-JUNE-JULY 1999

### Calendar Notes:

Thursday June 17, 1999 Club Night The 519 Community Centre  
Pizza and Dance-the Club will pay for pizza.

Saturday June 26, 1999 Pride Weekend Festivities  
A square dance demo 4pm on the stage. Please show your support by being there wearing a Triangle Square T-shirt and helping to hand out flyers. Speak to Holly Price.

Summer Dance Schedule July 8-Sept 2, 1999 The 519 Community Centre from 7-10  
Alternating weekly Mainstream/Plus, then  
Advanced/Challenge. Cost is \$5.00 per night

Intro Nights Wednesday September 8 & 15, Jesse Ketchum 7-9 PM bring your friends  
even your enemies-the more the merrier! Real classes start  
September 22, 1999

### Presidential Address from her Excellency Nancy Deadman

Whew, has it really been 7+ months since I joined the steering committee? Hard to believe summer is here! I would like to thank everyone for dancing for the year and putting in the effort to learn those new moves. Sometimes it is quite a challenge to point your feet in the direction of the 519 or Jesse Ketchum after a hard day at work, but usually one or two tips in, you've completely forgotten your day at work. (Or could that be the result of one too many turns in the Teacup chain?)

I have enjoyed my time on the steering committee and look forward to the remainder of my term. Don't forget if you have any ideas for changes to the club please let me know.

Best wishes for a great summer everyone, thanks to all those who answered my pleas for volunteers and to the other members of the Steering Committee for their support. Special thanks goes to Brian Croker for putting the newsletter together and keeping us informed.

Allemande left to a right and left grand...

Have lots of fun in the sun and sand.

*Kudos to the Fly-In Committee* from Nancy Deadman

When the dust from the tornado had settled, the twelfth annual Fly-In Scoot across the border was a grand success! On behalf of the Steering Committee and Triangle Squares I would like to thank David Whitney and his committee for putting together a wonderful Fly-In. I certainly think everyone had a grand time. If this is any indication of what we are capable of...watch out in 2002 at the convention.

The Fly-In committee members were again...David Whitney, Jay Bascom, Tom Earle, Lois Boyd, Steve McKeown, Keltie Jones, Bruce Harrigan and Nancy Deadman. (Also a special thanks to Holly Price for the artwork and the 'spouses' who willingly or unwittingly were drawn into the Fly-In vortex.)

A thank you also goes to everyone in the club who volunteered some of their time over the weekend, the event would not have been a success without your help.

*Scoot Across the Border 99* from "Wizard" Whitney

It's hard to believe that another Fly-in has come and gone already. We started in Kansas and then it was over the rainbow to Oz and now we're back in Toronto! Along the yellow brick road we danced to the calling of Chris Phillips and Dave Hutchinson. Now, we know that Kansas can be hot but we never expected Oz to be that hot too. The only glitch in the weekend was the breakdown of the air-conditioning system in the gyms at The St. Lawrence Community Centre. However the almost 175 Munchkins who attended coped well and everyone danced as much as they chose. We did go through a lot of water and soft drinks though!

Saturday night's costume ball gave the more creative dancers a chance to show their stuff and there were some interesting costumes. Chris Ambidge, dressed as a house was a co-winner along with Ward Lambert as the yellow brick road. As usual the Triangle Tarts were "over the rainbow" with their various versions of Dorothy and her offspring as well as "Gelinda" the good witch. We even had the TV cameras there as QTV did a feature on the event. The trivia contest proved to be a challenge and many tried to guess the number of jellybeans in the ruby slipper. Everyone got to match their "yellow brick" with one on the yellow brick wall and win a prize. Was there ever-greater chaos than when all the Dorothys and Lions etc. had to find each other and square up? Well, yes there was when the next tip required everyone to form squares containing all the characters from the movie!

Other highlights of the weekend-included brunch at The Hot House Café and Monday morning's special Curator's tour of Casa Loma attended by 20 of our guests.

Special thanks to all the committee members and the many volunteers who helped with the setting up, decorations, manning the registration desk and refreshment room, selling T-shirts and 50/50 tickets and all the many other tasks that arose. It was your hard work that helped to make it one of the best Fly-ins ever. Thanks too to all our Triangle Squares members for their support and participation and their words of encouragement and appreciation.

Now the event is a good memory and it is time to start planning the first fly-in of a new century, next year's *Scoot Across the Border 2000*.

*A Virgin at the Ball: Notes from a fly-in never ever* by Ralph Williams

It's hard now to pick out single elements from my first fly in. I see everything in the rosy glow of remembrance. So I'll frame my notes in the context of Costa's Rules.

Costa, bless his heart, has been patiently shepherding this year's Basic/Mainstream class. In order to help his charges survive the fly-in he offered us pieces of advice, which I interpreted as Costa's Rules.

1. Don't dance with each other, it's the quick route to chaos.

*We've been dancing together all year. We've screwed up with each other so often that we're comfortable with it. It's not as easy to contemplate the very real possibility of screwing up with strangers at the fly-in. This rule was observed in the breaking. Who new that Chris would pick a square with five Triangle Squares mainstreamers and two visiting mainstreamers to use for his spotting. He figured it out fast when he announced to the world that all the boys were in the middle and all he got back was a deafening NO! I think the technical term is "Oh Well".*

2. Don't let the styling get in the way.

*Who knew? The man called square through four in the middle. So the ends were doing the quick jive turns. Some of those bears can really move. I'm still finishing a jive turn, rocking back on one heel, when I get swept off my feet, both figuratively and literally, into an allemande left. At least he had me pointed in the right direction when he put me on the ground again to promenade my partner home.*

3. Don't anticipate.

*Okay let's get the truth out on the table. Callers are vicious and vindictive control freaks. After you repeat a pattern three times in a partner trade progression you figure that number four is a given. Wrong! Callers just lull you into a sense of false complacency and call something totally different to see how quickly we can wrench ourselves back to where we should be. If that doesn't work, they go for low cunning: role reversal. I know, at this point in my square dancing career I should have dealt with my role reversal issues. However, I had no idea what to do when we did a right and left through from a half-sashayed position. I tried to courtesy turn the phantom dancer while my partner did a full-blown deer in the headlights.*

4. Everyone screws up, get over it.

*This was one rule that was strictly observed. Even the callers got into it. I thought we'd be going directly to group therapy after Chris called Ping-Pong circulate in a Mainstream tip. The plus dancers kept blithely moving while the mainstream dancers came to a grinding halt. The best crash and burn was when I was dancing with an A2 dancer on Sunday afternoon. He usually dances lead but had condescended to dance follow with me. So as we were waiting for the caller to fill up the squares I hear this mantra from my partner: "I'm a girl, I'm a girl, I'm a girl." Honey, get over it, we all have issues. Anyway, things were going beautifully until the call came out for grand right and left; my partner and I both tried to go round the square counter clockwise and the result was mayhem.*

My favorite moment from the weekend has to be "When they call the roll up yonder I'll be there". The advanced dancers had been hovering to make sure that there were enough people to square up for the mainstream tips as it gets really ugly when you try to tap in at that pace of dancing. We struggled to get four squares but the caller (Nick from New York) really got us moving. He segued from the first call into Love Potion #9 and cut the mike to get the dancers to sing the chorus. Think Tom Cruise doing "Addicted to Love". By the end of that call there were easily nine squares dancing and a fair contingent of spectators. Having a good sense of how fired up the group was, the caller moved directly into a classic hymn that you'd expect to hear at any good tent revival meeting. So there we were singing with the caller and flying through a weave the ring progression. The emotional rush was incredible.

I am proud to be part of Triangle Squares. I was impressed by the quality of event that the group was able to host. Every time I asked someone from our club to dance they would say yes unless they were previously committed or only danced lead. The more advanced dancers in our club put aside their own fatigue to make sure that the mainstream squares were full. There will be other fly-ins but only one first fly-in. In hindsight, I'm almost glad that the Date Squares had to cancel Chase the Bunny because Scoot Across the Border '99 will always be my first fly-in.

#### *Scoot Across the Border 99 T-shirts* from David Whitney

Our colourful Fly-In T-shirt featuring the Yellow Brick Road, Ruby Slippers and the Toronto skyline as the Emerald City, was a big seller at *Scoot Across the Border*.

Didn't get your T-shirt at the Fly-In? Don't worry, we still have a few of these popular shirts left, but don't delay because they're still selling fast. These fabulous shirts are available in sizes L to XXX for only \$14.00.

Be sure to get yours, or even purchase a second one, right away. See Jay Bascom at dance classes or call him evenings at (416) 203-0815, or contact David Whitney or Nancy Deadman.

#### **Classes for the Fall Sessions or unraveling the mystery....**

Ever wonder how the process works for determining the classes for the fall? This was my question at the last steering committee. (This being of course my first time intimately involved in the process.)

There are 4 components to the classes:

1. Class members (new graduates, previous class attendees)
2. Class structure (workshop, teaching)
3. Class schedule (what night, time)
4. Callers (who's available and when)

### Proposed Class List

The first step is to determine the proposed class list for each level. The composition of the class list, new dancers versus people who have taken the class before will dictate which levels will be taught. The class list is arrived by evaluating the skills of each dancer.

### Moving to the next Level

This evaluation is done in combination with the dancer and the caller. \*New\* this year are the self-evaluation sheets. Please make sure you complete one and hand it in to your caller. The purpose of the evaluation sheet is to give the dancer a better idea of what skills are required to move to the next level. It also allows the steering committee to know which dancers, who although they may be eligible, may not wish to advance to the next level. The class caller is responsible for reviewing the evaluation sheets and skills of each dancer and recommending that they either remain at their current level or move up.

Why this process? This process attempts (to the best of the steering committee's ability) to ensure that good quality dancing is available at every level. Everyone is frustrated by squares that constantly breakdown and those individuals who consistently breakdown the squares find themselves avoided as dance partners. Not much fun for anyone.

Please feel free to check with the caller on your progress. They will be able to tell you the moves you need to practice or whether you would benefit from dancing during the summer sessions.

### Class Structure

Now that we know the composition of each class, the next challenge is to determine if we have enough people in the class to warrant teaching or workshopping that level. Can we offer a C2 class this year? How about an A1 class?

This past year we tried a format of workshopping A1/A2, Plus and C1. This was not a complete success. Many of the sessions reverted to a teaching format. A few groups (like the A2 dancers) wound up with not enough floor time to keep up and improve their skills. We will definitely be addressing that this year.

If there are not enough new participants to warrant teaching a level, those dancers affected will have to remain at their current dance level until enough other dancers progress to form a class. Each class needs to be of a large enough size to ensure at least 8 dancers show up each week.

### Class Schedule and Callers

Okay, we have a class; we know what we are doing with them, now for the when and with whom. (Sounds like some dates I've had.) The next process is to review when the classes will be held and line up callers for each one. Who is available and what would they like to teach? Is there a weaker class that would benefit from Joe's experience teaching? I know some people have planned their other activities around the present format so we will try to maintain it where possible.

Once all the loose ends are tied up. Letters are sent to each dancer with their class assignment for the fall. The steering committee is meeting June 29th. So we hope to have the letters ready to go out in early August.

If anyone has any questions about the process or suggestions, please come and talk to me.

Nancy

### Wanted: Volunteers for *Scoot Across the Border 2000*

If you enjoyed this year's event, please think about volunteering to help organize next year's. The committee is always looking for new faces with creative ideas or organizational skills. This is your chance to contribute to your club and make *Scoot Across the Border 2000* even better than previous Fly-Ins. The committee always has a lot of fun and it's a great way to make new friends. When there are lots of volunteers the work is not time consuming and the rewards of staging a successful event make it very worthwhile.

Didn't we just finish this year's Fly-In and already we're talking about next year's?

Although it seems early, there is preliminary work that needs to be done in the next month or two. Popular Callers are often booked up a year in advance so the committee needs to be choosing them soon and logos and advertising need to be prepared over the summer for distribution early next Fall. Once that's done there is a break until the winter when the main organizing takes place.

If you can spare 5 or 6 nights for meetings during the next year, volunteer to be a part of the Fly-In committee by contacting Nancy Deadman as soon as possible at 462-0617.

### Belated Birthday wishes for May:

Deirdre Taylor	5 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Sterritt	5 <sup>th</sup>
Derick Hoffman*	6 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Wilding	6 <sup>th</sup>
Brian Croker	25 <sup>th</sup>	Frank Leone*	30 <sup>th</sup>
Mike Ball	31 <sup>st</sup>		

June Birthday Wishes to:

Peter Davies	1 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Newson*	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Jacques Cartier	9 <sup>th</sup>	Don Cheff	11 <sup>th</sup>
John Nishakawa	14 <sup>th</sup>	Ralph Williams*	16 <sup>th</sup>
Lorne Lundquist*	18 <sup>th</sup>	Loris Pittioni	20 <sup>th</sup>
Jim Tait	20 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremy Vincent	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Keltie Creed	27 <sup>th</sup>	Caroline Julian	30 <sup>th</sup>

July Birthday Wishes to:

John Mills	12 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Naylor	13 <sup>th</sup>
Richard Pyke	14 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff Gibson*	19 <sup>th</sup>
Charles Csatory*	20 <sup>th</sup>	Arthur Wong	20 <sup>th</sup>
Linda Hemphill*	21 <sup>st</sup>		

\*denotes Mainstream members

Steering Committee Contacts

President	Nancy Deadman	462-0617
Secretary	Mike Ball	466-8522
Treasurer	Pamela Newey	698-5563
IAGSDC Rep	Bruce Harrigan	510-1704
Publicity	Holly Price/Joanne LaPlante	762-9257
Associate Rep	Lorne Lundquist	905-270-4958
Equipment Manager*	Costa Roussakis	921-6196
Newsletter Editor*	Brian Croker	925-8387
Past Fly In Chairman*	David Whitney	905-457-7147

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

If you move or change your telephone number please call Mike Ball and advise of the chance. You won't be informed if we are not informed.