



TRIANGLE SQUARES

April 2008



IMPORTANT DATES

Club Dance - Sunday, April 20 Spring Dance and Pot Luck Dinner

Dancing from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., followed by a Pot-Luck dinner. Sign up sheets for listing your contributions to the Pot Luck dinner will be available in the classes leading up to this dance.

Callers: Norm Wilcox (B/M through A2), & Osamu Miyabe (A2 through room-level C).

Lift Lock Squares "Annual Spring Spree"

This Peterborough square dancing club has invited us to participate in their 46th annual "Spring Spree" to be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

There will be two sessions in which we can participate: the afternoon session from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., and the evening session from 8:00 to 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$12.50 for the day if paid by March 31. We make our own arrangements for the dinner break. The dance levels they will be calling are Basic, Mainstream, Plus and A1. Their club has been contacted about our attendance, and we have been assured that the Lift Lock Squares will be pleased to have us participate in this event.

Registration sheets are available in the classes for those who are interested in attending this event. We are requesting that attendees wear our maple leaf club shirts and black trousers to this event. If you don't have a club shirt, a long-sleeved white shirt will be acceptable to wear with black trousers.

Bob Hails would like to add a social aspect to this outing by inviting those interested attendees to come for brunch at his place at 9:30 a.m. before we car pool to Peterborough. Closer to the event, Bob will be circulating a sign up sheet at the classes, on which you can indicate if you are attending the Spring Spree, if you are attending the brunch at his place, if you need a ride to Peterborough and/or if you can offer a ride to others, and how many you can accommodate.



UPDATE - FLY-IN - MAY 22-25, 2008 TAKE A PEEK AT THE CRYSTAL BALL



Friday: We'll be dancing at the YMCA on Grosvenor; a pot-luck meal will be set up in the main dance room.

Saturday and Sunday: We're back to our usual spot at Jesse Ketchum school, with its large double gym, handy for moving from room to room and with parking on site.

Sunday brunch: at Michelle's Brasserie, 162 Cumberland St. (Renaissance Court, which is in the lanes just east of the Four Seasons Hotel)

Please think about what jobs you may want to volunteer for, as well as what dish you want to make for the potluck, and advise Holly or Joanne.



Thanks to those who have already registered.

The registration form can be found at <http://www.iagsdc.org/trianglesquares/#flyin>

Looking forward to seeing you at **Scout Across the Border 2008!**

Holly and Joanne

TRIANGLE SQUARES – 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

Triangle Squares was founded in the spring of 1987 by a group of three "founding fathers", Chris Homer, Len De Graaf, and Andrew Chow. In March 1986, after participating in a Times Square event in NYC, a couple of Toronto fellows organized an Introduction Night at the Huron Street School called by Ron Masker, with a Hoe Down at the '519' the next day. These were very successfully attended, and generated enough interest to repeat another Intro Night and Hoe Down in March of 1987, again called by Ron Masker and again assisted by other dancers from Times Squares. In August, the three met to organize a formal group, and Chris Homer eventually contacted Anne & Joe Uebelacker through Lloyd Priest, who was also a local caller at the time. A beginner class was planned for that September, with ads appearing in X-tra, and with around 30 or so people showing up. Anne taught for the club until the mid-1990's, when she moved to Vancouver. There are a number of Triangle Squares members who started dancing in 1997 and who continue to dance to this day, including Chris Homer, Don St. Jean, Kevin Seymour, Jeremy Vincent, and Don Cheff.

It's been suggested that the name of the club was taken for various reasons, including to reflect the trio who founded it, a possible geographic reference, and possibly for the acknowledged insignia of a pink triangle representing the gay movement.

The club logo was created by a club member around 1988, incorporating eight triangles in a shape resembling a camera shutter, that was meant to mimic dance movement. Les Holloway saved this design in an electronic, digitized version, cleaning and tidying it up along the way.

Triangle Squares became a registered and official member of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC) in July 1988, at the annual convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, *Cross Trails In The Desert*. In attendance were Chris Homer and Barry Caven, who were members of the Out & Out Club at the time, and from which have drawn many members over the years. Triangle Squares has been a registered member of the Toronto Square and Round Dance Club since 2004, and dancing with them as an unofficial member since the early 1990's. Our members continue to attend fly-ins and conventions associated with these clubs, most notably with our (unofficial) sister club, Cleveland City Country Dancers, as we have supported each other's fly-ins since the early years. Triangle Squares hosted its own convention in the summer of 2002, inviting the world community of square dancers to a weekend event that attracted well over 1,000 participants.



The club's first president was Chris H., if mostly by default, but also as likely due to his skills at organizing and coordinating and maybe, as he would suggest, by being 'a bit pushy'. It was a challenge in those days to find callers for a gay square dance club, but as the club became known in the straight community as having good dancers who could dance at speed, due to the teachings and drillings by Anne and Joe, callers became more approachable. Initial resistance by some straight callers has now transcended into acceptance by many, and recognition that same-sex, sight-calling allows a caller a more stimulating and worthwhile exercise.

Promotion of the club began in the early-1990's with the assistance of a Demonstration group of dancers, who continue to perform intermittently at various events and venues. These demos have assisted the club in advertising itself and has helped raise our profile in the community. Its most noteworthy events in the early years were likely its repeated invitations by CityTV to appear on Breakfast Television, as well as its performance at the IAGSDC *Track To Chicago* convention in 1995. The club is additionally helped in its role of outreach and goodwill, fun & frivolity with the assistance of the Triangle Tarts, a group of dancers in tacky drag, who dress up at fly-ins and conventions, and who march and sometimes dance in the Pride day parade. As many would attest, a crinoline in motion is mesmerizing, whether twirled by a petite, straight septuagenarian woman or by a burly, bearded gay guy!

Although Triangle Squares has had its share of challenges in adding numbers to its membership, as all square dance clubs now face, we have benefited from the energy and enthusiasm of past and current members. The high level of commitment of our board and its members ensures a lasting and well-recognized legacy within the gay and straight square dance communities.

Congratulations to Triangle Squares on its achievements and successes over these 20 years!



Peel The Apple, New York City, 1989

Front Row: Alan Gottlieb, Andrew Chow, Anne Uebelacker, Chris Homer, & Les Holloway; Middle Row: Terry __, Joe Uebelacker, & Kevin Seymour; Back Row: Finalnet Funicello, Michael Piper, Terry Thorpe, Don St Jean, & Juana Donis



Canadian National Exhibition, 1992



Christmas Dance at the "519", 1988

Sandy Zimmerman, Juana Donis, Catherine Tompkins & Finalnet Funicello



Cloverleaves & Mapleleaves, Toronto, 2002

Stephen Westfall & Charlie Lyall



Pride Day



Dancing at Joe's Log House

Upcoming Fly-In's and Events

Arch and Dive Thru St Louis 2008, March 28 to 30, hosted by Gateway Squares, St. Louis, MO. Callers: Mike Kellogg and Ett McAtee.
<http://gatewaysquares.50megs.com/custom.html>

Philadelphia Freedom: Follow Your Neighbor Thru' the Woods, March 28-30, held at the Ramada Inn at Lake Harmony in the Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania, hosted by Independence Squares. Callers: Anne Uebelacker, Dayle Hodge, Andy Shore. Info: <http://www.independencesquares.org/>

Ropin' the River 20th Anniversary - "If We Could Turn Back TIME", April 18-20, Grand Rapid, Michigan, hosted by Grand River Squares. Callers: Vic Ceder & Howard Richman. Info: <http://www.grsquares.org/>

Pass the Ocean, Hon! 2008, May 2-4, at the Waxter Convention Center in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Hosted by Chesapeake Squares, Baltimore. Callers: Betsy Gotta, Dayle Hodge, ChiChi Hoffner and Ben Rubright. Info: www.chesapeakesquares.org/

Scot Across The Border - Take a Peek at the Crystal Ball, May 22-25, Triangle Squares, Toronto. Callers: Betsy Gotta and Norm Wilcox.

Touch A Quarter Century - 25th Annual IAGSDC Convention, July 3-6, Cleveland, Ohio. Callers: Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Mike DeSisto, Ed Foote, Betsy Gotta, Dayle Hodge, Mike Jacobs, Nick Martellacci, Ett McAtee, Lloyd "Sparky" Sparks, John Steckman and Anne Uebelacker. Info: www.taqc.org/

For all other events associated with the **IAGSDC**, please go to <http://www.iagsdc.org>.



REMINDER: Please check our telephone line for Club updates: (416) 925-XTRA, ext 2014.

NOTE: If you'd like to submit an article or a digital photograph for inclusion in the newsletter, please e-mail it to Don at doncheff@hotmail.com.

Toronto & District Square and Round Dance Convention

Brock University, St Catherines, May 8-10

Once again Colleen Dodds is arranging for our club members to participate in this annual event on Saturday May 10. Colleen's invites you to her home for brunch prior to car pooling to St Catherines for the Convention. Her address is 44 Denison Road West in Toronto, and she will be serving brunch from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Then, the group will drive to Brock University for the afternoon and evening dance sessions, with a dinner break in between.

The convention webpage is available at:
<http://www3.sympatico.ca/jerry.callen/td/Brock.htm>.

The registration form is at:
<http://www3.sympatico.ca/jerry.callen/td/registra.htm>.

The cost for the day of dance is \$20.00 in advance. Information and the Registration Form are available at the web sites noted above, or can be obtained by contacting Colleen at 416-247-6854 or c.dodds@sympatico.ca, or she can be found dancing at the A level classes on Wednesday nights at Jesse Ketchum School, and at the Mainstream and Plus classes on Thursday nights at the "519".

So, show some club spirit and join us for a fun day of dance!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CLUB DANCE

Thanks to all of you who supported the club by attending the St. Patrick's Day club dance on Sunday, March 16. A good time was had by all, and the turnout was most gratifying.

Thanks to: Michiel Bagchus for arranging the lucky draw for "green" items; Colleen for her Irish Soda Bread; Joe Uebelacker for his (wife's) baked goodies, and; Bob Hails for his Green Nanaimo Bars.

The proceeds of over \$100 generated by this dance was donated to the 519 Mosaic Mural Project.

THE 519 MOSAIC MURAL PROJECT

Bob Hails has made the final tally of all the in-class donations and the proceeds from the St. Patrick's club dance to arrive at a final figure of \$730.50, which will be donated to the 519 Mosaic Mural Project from Triangle Squares.

A cheque in this amount will be presented to Maura Lawless, who is co-ordinating this project for the 519 Community Centre, along with a list of club members who donated \$10 or more to this project so that the 519 can forward income tax receipts to you.

Thank You, Donors, for your generous contribution and your community spirit.