



Triangle Squares

December 2009



President's Message

Hello All,

The Holiday Party of December 6 was a great event, with an amazing turnout. It was especially good to see such a large representation from the B/M Plus class. We have a very enthusiastic group this year, and I am sure they appreciated the opportunity to meet and dance with other members of the club. I would like to thank everyone who participated, with special thanks to Barry Clasper for calling, and to John Bailey for organizing.

However you celebrate this holiday season, I wish you and yours, Peace and Joy.

Yellowrocks!
Patrick Aubert

STEERING COMMITTEE – NEW MEMBERS

The following club members were acclaimed at the AGM on October 29:

Secretary: Susan Cox

Events & Publicity Coordinator: Cameron
Moosewah

IAGSDC Representative: Don Cheff

Basic/Mainstream Rep: Jacquie Adain

IMPORTANT DATES

Club Dances

- Wednesday, January 6, 2010, Jesse Ketchum School. Caller: Osamu Miyabe & Don St. Jean
- Sunday, February 14; Sunday, March 14; Sunday, April 11; and, Sunday, June 13: Locations and Callers to be decided.

Guests are most welcome to join us at all of our events, and if able to dance, even better!

For dates and events relating to Triangle Squares, please refer to our website at <http://trianglesquares.com/default.aspx>.

Fan The Big Top - Scoot Across the Border 2010

The Fly-In takes place from Friday, May 28 to Sunday, May 30, 2010, with a Trail-In dance on Thursday, May 27. The Trail-In dance is in the form of a Club Dance and is open to all members, whether they are registered for the fly-in or not. Our callers for the fly-in will be Bill Harrison and Tim Crawford.

The Saturday and Sunday events will be held at Jesse Ketchum School and we continue to decide upon venues for the Thursday Trail-In dance and the Friday night Pot-Luck dinner and dance. We continue to negotiate a suitable venue for the Brunch for Sunday morning May 30.

Registrations will soon be available.

We continue to invite club members to support and help with many of the events. Thanks for your help.

Yellowrocks,

The Scoot 2010 Committee: Bob Hails, Lee Godfrey,
Colleen Dodds, & Bob Hynes

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS®
A Lesbian and Gay Organization

Upcoming Fly-In's and Events

ACDC 2010, February 12-14, hosted by DC Lambda Squares, Washington DC. Callers: Sandie Bryant, Ross Howell, Lee Kopman and John Marshall. Info: www.dclambdasquares.org/acdc/index.php.

(Hail) Seesaw in the Woods, March 12-14, Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania, hosted by Independence Squares. Callers: Anne Uebelacker, Tim Marriner, and Barry Clasper. Info: www.iagsdc.org/indsquares/.

Arch and Dive Thru 2010: A Space Oddity, March 19-21, Saint Louis, Missouri. Callers: Anne Uebelacker and Michael Kellogg.

Info: www.gatewaysquares.50megs.com/custom.html.

Ropin' the River - Yellowrock in Bedrock, April 16-18, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Callers: Mike Jacobs and John Oldfield. Info: www.grsquares.org.

For all other events associated with the IAGSDC, please go to www.iagsdc.org.

News from Basic/Mainstream Class

From Terri Rothman and Niall O'Reilly

Five new members have backgrounds in English Country and Contra dancing. They note that the differences in calls include:

SQUARE DANCING	CONTRA
Walk around your corner	Gypsy your partner or neighbour
Swing your partner for two beats	Swing your partner for eight beats
Recorded music	Live music
Exuberant sound effects	Moderate assistance

Luckily, many of the calls are familiar. So, *wave* to us as we *zoom* at the Mainstream level. *Rollaway* as we *slip the clutch* and *dive thru* at Plus.

A member of the B/M class, Wyn Hofstee, offers us her first impressions:

This is a lot of fun....even more fun than I expected! What a friendly and relaxed group of people!

Wow, a live caller ... It's so impressive that he can get us back to our original spot or "home"!

I don't have to worry too much about making mistakes 'cause everyone is very understanding.

It's a little challenging to remember who is dancing the boy's part and who is dancing the girl's part.....maybe the girls should have to wear a scarf!). This is the only place where a woman can walk into a room and people ask, "Are you a girl?!"

Cologne/Perfume use!

This is a gentle reminder to please refrain from using perfume or cologne, for the sake of those with scent sensitivities.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.



Demonstrations for CCGRA

From Patrick Aubert

On the weekend of November 13th, the Central Canada Gay Rodeo Association hosted their international convention in Toronto. Triangle Squares was invited to dance a demo square at the Country Dance on Saturday night. Two demo squares were led by Joe Ubelacker, and it turned out to be a very enjoyable evening for all. We were even able to get a number of the conventioners onto the dance floor to learn some of the basics!

Thanks to all the members who turned out to support this event, and a special thank you to Joe for calling.

If you would like to volunteer in the club's performance demos, you can do so with an e-mail to the club, at Triangle.Squares@gmail.com.

Holiday Party

From John Bailey

We were very pleased to see almost 50 people at our annual holiday season party, including a large contingent of the new dancers from the Thursday Basic/Mainstream/Plus class. The dancing was fast and furious, the food was great, and really, what more could you want from a Sunday afternoon?

The caller for the afternoon was Barry Clasper. Barry has been a caller for 25 years, and has called for Triangle Squares for a large number of those years. He calls regularly throughout North America, Europe and Asia. He has maintained a perfect record for attending IAGSDC Conventions since his first in Baltimore in 2000, and will be on staff at the next convention in Chicago in 2010.

The holiday party is just one of the regular club dances that we hold each month. They are always fun, and we hope you'll be able to join us for each of the future events.



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

Insurance Cards

From John Bailey

By now, everyone should have received their membership card from the Canadian Square & Round Dance Society. This card also functions as your 'proof of insurance' for the insurance protection that each member receives as a benefit of being a member of the Society. This year's white card covers you for the period of January 1st – December 31st, 2010.

It is important to remember that this isn't accident or medical insurance, and that this is Third Party Liability insurance. The insurance covers Triangle Squares, steering committee members, and each of our members. The insurance is of value if the club is found negligent and therefore responsible for damage to our dance spaces, or to other dancers. For example, the School Board requires us to carry this insurance when we rent their space, in the event that there is damage to the floors or furniture during one of our dances, or during our annual fly-in. As well, it protects you in the event that you become a little too enthusiastic when you're swinging your corner, and end up breaking his or her left arm.

If you haven't received your card, please let a member of the steering committee know.

Club Caller Corner

Thanks to all the Angels!

From Joe Uebelacker

I'd like to thank all of the angels who help out in the beginners' class this year. All angels have been good in past years, but this year, you're great. All the help you give the new dancers between tips is very much appreciated. I try not to interrupt you in this because it always helps to hear directions from different sources. As you know, there is much more to the activity than just learning the calls and you are all helping greatly in this endeavour. I'd also like to commend the new dancers in being so patient with each other and helping out. Not that any other class in the past hasn't been good and a lot of fun, but it's time for me to thank you all for your participation.

Club Caller Corner

Comparisons of 2 Fly-Ins

From Andy Chong

I recently went to 2 fly-ins on consecutive weeks, the "west coast" Advanced and Challenge in Albuquerque N.M., and Peel the Pumpkin by Times Squares in Asbury Park N.J. Here is a comparison of my experiences.

Getting There

To get to Albuquerque from Toronto required a plane change. I did so in Denver, others did Chicago or even the west coast. The hotel had a shuttle that picked up from the airport, and could take people around town if not thus utilized. Getting to Asbury Park meant flying into Newark and taking the NJ Coast train south. Normally, at least one train change is needed at Long Branch, but I timed my flight well to catch the only train (per day) that did not need a change. From the train station, it was a \$5 fixed-fare taxi to the hotel, though it is also walkable.

Hotel Location

The Albuquerque hotel was on a suburban strip. There were other hotels and various businesses including a few restaurants and a Subway within walking distance. The Asbury Park hotel was almost on the oceanfront. There was one reasonably-priced sit-down restaurant nearby, a couple of snack/light meal places in a pavilion sitting astride the boardwalk, and otherwise there were tourist-priced restaurants further down the boardwalk and downtown. There were also supposed to be gay bars within walking distance.

Dance Space

Albuquerque had one ballroom and one meeting room, both dividable. The ballroom had C1 (largest) and A2, the meeting room had C2 and C3A/C3B/C4. C2 had the smaller sub-room when C3A was opposite, but the larger sub-room otherwise. The room swap was initiated by the dancers, and quickly approved by the organizers. All dancing was on carpet. Peel the Pumpkin had a connecting set of 5 large rooms set in a loop. Alternating rooms were used for dancing, which cut down on sound leakage problems. One buffer room was used for the bar, and the other for food. Two of the dance halls had a wood dance floor that could get crowded, and otherwise dancing

was on carpet. The main room had sufficient space for all-caller sessions (part of Friday, Saturday night, and part of Sunday afternoon), and also held the baskets for the auction. Sunday morning dancing was “on the boardwalk” – actually, in the building that straddled it, which tended to have poor acoustics.

Meals, etc.

In Albuquerque, hotel guests had passes for a buffet breakfast in the restaurant (including hot items and omelette station), and coupons for 2 drinks per day at the bar. A Saturday buffet dinner was included in price of the fly-in. At PtP, the hotel provided a continental breakfast 7-11 am, while the fly-in provided the same (plus fruit) 8-10 am. The fly-in also provided light snacks early Friday evening, a sandwich lunch Saturday noon, leftovers Saturday at dinnertime, and a dessert buffet later Saturday night. PtP ran a bar each evening, and dancers were encouraged to use that facility. So both fly-ins provided opportunities for socializing.

Callers

The A+C had 7 listed callers, but 5 did most of the calling. One only called Advanced. I got ½ an hour as a C2 guest caller. PtP had 3 staff callers. When they worked in different rooms, the spaces were big enough for the callers to stay in one room for the whole session (e.g. morning, afternoon) and the dancers to rotate. I had 2 separate tips (MS / Plus), and gave one away to another caller who wanted to call and had not pre-registered to do so.

Getting Back

For the A+C, not wanting to leave before the dancing was over, I elected to stay an extra night – the hotel was cheap. I got an introduction to the new scanning machines, and found that I should have emptied my pockets (even of non-metallic objects). For PtP, I had a ride to the airport, but we dropped off another dancer at the Asbury Park train station. Too late, we discovered that it was now off-season, and the connecting train south of Long Branch only ran every other hour on Sunday.

Gay Square Dancing and Rodeos

From Andy Chong

The club recently did a demo for the Central Canada Gay Rodeo Association. I found that some of our members did not know that the origin of gay square

dancing was closely tied to that of gay rodeos. The history of the 1st 10 year of the IAGSDC is available at: <http://www.iagsdc.org/main/resources/docs/tenyears.pdf>. (Note: it's a big document, since it is an entire book.) The interview with Karl Jaeckel is especially instructive on this point.

Memories of Mike Jacobs

From Andy Chong



According to various posts to square dance mailing lists, Mike Jacobs passed away Wednesday December 2. He had flown out to California to call a convention Friday Nov. 27, but instead was taken directly to hospital. Kristy (his only daughter) and Patty (her mom, Mike's ex) were at his side at the end.

Mike had called for many gay conventions and fly-ins, and taught gay caller schools. He had been Chairman of CALLERLAB for 2004-2006, and used his influence to get the IAGSDC on the Governing Board of ARTS (Alliance of Round Traditional and Square Dance).

Some personal memories of Mike:

As a caller: providing just-in-time hints to get dancers thru tricky positions, such as Coordinate from lines.

As a Challenge Committee member (this year): arguing that Inter-locked Triangles are beyond the capabilities of C1 dancers and should be removed from the C1 program.

As an instructor at a gay caller school: mentioning that, at his 1st gay convention, he dug up all his singing calls based on cities and non-animate objects; but eventually being not shy about putting a hand on a student caller for instructions on breathing, posture, etc.

Giving a talk to callers on learning styles: mentioning that his mother had trouble dancing calls with unfamiliar formations or concepts, but, with enough experience, being able to dance C1 because she has basically seen it all.

Last specific memory: riding around Albuquerque (just before the west coast A+C fly-in) in the hotel shuttle – he had to get to a particular store to get his cell phone fixed, and I was waiting for my room to become available.

Club Dance of November 1, 2009



Demo for CCGRA on November 14, 2009





You can view more pics at http://www.flickr.com/photos/byron_godfrey/