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(NB. each photo is "clickable": you'll see a larger version, additional photos, or a video)

For **up-to-the-minute** club news, check our [Facebook page](#) and the news section on our [homepage](#).

Weave the Ring in 2013

This year's [Fly-In](#) is **less than 2 weeks away**: four fun days of great dancing, socializing, eating. We'll soon see what [creative "weaves"](#) appear on Saturday night. The Fly-In committee has worked hard all year planning and preparing; they'll need your help to ensure this May 23-26 event is a success. Please sign up [here](#) for the potluck brunch on Sunday May 26th; we'll need lots of [volunteers](#) to help setup Thursday night, Friday night, and Saturday morning; to staff the registration table, and to help cleanup.

Upcoming

- **May 23:** An entire fun-filled weekend of dancing starts with our **Trail-In** dance: a **free**, "all level" club dance, at 519 Church St (7-10 pm), called by Joe Uebelacker. Even if you cannot attend the fly-in weekend, come out for a fun dance on Thursday night.
- **May 24-26**, ?!'s annual Fly-In: [Weave the Ring in 2013](#).
- **May 31-June 2:** Joe Uebelacker's [caller school](#) (Peterborough): emphasis on how to call, learning the mechanics of choreography – set ups and get-outs, lots of mic time and helpful critiques, how to practice to get better and more.
- **School's Out:** last day of classes for Basic - May 22, Plus - June 6 (or later), A2 - May 22 and C1 - May 30.
- **June 5 & 12:** Convention Prep Funshop (see [details below](#), please signup)
- **June 13:** Intro to square dancing, caller Joe Uebelacker. The most successful way to promote our club and gain new members, is to get persons to come out and try square dancing. We're **asking all ?!' members to help spread the word about our intro dances: June 13, Aug 15, and in early Sept.** Bring your friends for a fun night! [Join this event](#) on Facebook, to help promote it.
- **July 4-7:** Weave Your Heart in [San Francisco](#) (IAGSDC's annual convention). If it's your first time, this [online convention guide](#) may be handy (a slightly less current [PDF](#)

[version](#) also available). See below for [additional suggestions](#) and some [statistics](#).

- **July 11 - Aug 19** (every Thursday): summer dancing! (see [details below](#))
- **Aug 23-25**: [Summer Magic](#), Cornwall.
- Want more dance events? Check out Toronto & District [event list](#) as well as IAGSDC [event list](#). You'll likely see a few ?! members at [contra dancing](#), which happens on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Saturday each month.
- The latest bi-monthly mailing from IAGSDC contains these [flyers](#): May 3-5 (Connecticut dance camp), July 1-3 (Gay Caller School), Sept 13-15 (San Diego), Sept 27-29 (Chicago), Oct 4-6 (New York), Oct 18-20 (Palm Springs), Nov 8-10 (Washington), Feb 14-16, 2014 (Washington)

Another good source of info is our club's [event calendar](#).

Some of Byron's wonderful photos, from our April 21 [Floral Fiesta](#) club dance



(click on the image above, to see more)

2014 and beyond

- **July 3-6, 2014**: [Squeeze the Hive](#) (IAGSDC convention, in Salt Lake City)
- **July 17-19, 2014**: [Canadian Square & Round Dance Convention](#), Ottawa ([more details](#))
- **May 22-25, 2015**: [Swing Me in St Louis](#) (IAGSDC convention)
- **July 1-4, 2016**: [Maple Leafs Regroup](#) (IAGSDC convention, in Toronto!), in the historic Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Festival 2014 (written by Festival Chair, Wendy VanderMeulen)

The Canadian International Square & Round Dance Convention comes to Ottawa in 2014. Known as "[Festival 2014](#)", it will be based in the centre of the city, in the new Ottawa Convention Centre, and will have everything a Dancer and visitor to Canada's capital can ask for.

For the Dancer, all dancing will be on two floors of the OCC. And all dance programs will be offered, from Basics through Challenge Squares, Phase 2-6 Rounds, Clogging, Contra, and Line dancing. Everything that is found at any square dance convention will be offered in Ottawa, July 17-19, 2014.

For the visitor, there are numerous hotels within walking distance - and one attached to the OCC. Steps from the back door, you will find Canadian history waiting to be discovered and explored in the ByWard Market, along the Rideau Canal, and up on Parliament Hill. Shops, sightseeing, restaurants/pubs/fine dining and culture are all within a few blocks of the dancing.

(Aside: At the T&D convention on May 4, ?! dancers were the only ones who made it through part 2 of the Plus Hot Hash, and Wendy was part of our amazing square!)

Plan to visit Ottawa in July, 2014 for some great dancing!

519 floor upgrade

Note that the 519 has recently invested in sanding and refinishing the maple floor in its Grand Ballroom. It's a great space that ?! uses for classes and club dances. The floor has been restored to its original beauty. The 519 has requested that all groups using the space will take measures to ensure that damage to the floor does not take place:

- Furniture is not to be dragged across the floor.
- Any furniture that is not on wheels must be lifted and put into position using a dolly.
- All chairs must be stacked on dollies at the end of meetings.
- Tape cannot be used on the floors or walls at all.
- ?! dancers should wear clean "indoor" shoes, to protect the wood floor (as we do at Jesse Ketchum School)

The mystery of the classes (written by Susan Cox, with thanks to Her Excellency Nancy Deadman, for an inspiring article written in [1999](#))

Ever wonder how the process works for determining the classes for the fall? There are 4 components to the planning process:

1. Class members (new arrivals, returning dancers)
2. Class structure (dance/workshop vs. teaching)
3. Class schedule (what day or night, what time, where)
4. Callers (who's available and when)

Members: The first step is to determine the proposed class list for each level. The composition of the class lists (new and returning dancers) will dictate which levels will be taught. The class lists are arrived at by evaluating the skills of each dancer.

The callers have years of experience, and they are in the best position to fairly assess dancers' abilities and recommend that they either remain at their current level or move to the next one. The recommendations are brought to a joint meeting of callers and the steering committee. Through our club's many years of experience, this method is the best way we have found, to try to ensure that good-quality dancing is available at every level.

When recommending that a dancer not move to another level, callers do so because they know from experience, as callers and as dancers, what happens when someone arrives in a

class they're not ready for: Squares will break down constantly, which is frustrating for everyone.

Structure, schedule, callers: The next challenge is to determine whether the class will be a teach or a dance/workshop. We always have sufficient numbers to justify teaching Basic/Mainstream and Plus every year. Determining the format for A and C levels can sometimes be more complicated, because of costs and logistics. Then we settle on when classes will be held, and we line up the callers for each one. (We have emailed all dancers for their personal input to help us with this planning.)

Once all of that is completed, emails are sent to the dancers with invitations to attend the level recommended for them by the callers.

The callers and the steering committee are meeting on May 18. But there are some tricky logistical issues still hanging over the process, mainly in the areas of locations and times. And we're all going to be hugely busy preparing for the Fly-In over the next couple of weeks. So we hope to email everyone by early June.

If anyone has any questions about the process, or suggestions, please come and talk to me (or [email me](#)) any time.

April 12-14 Grand Rapids (written by Don Cheff)

Grand River Squares always puts on a good party, and this year was no exception! Myself and three others travelled to Grand Rapids, Michigan, for Grand River Squares' Fly-In the weekend of April 12 to 14.

There were probably a little over 100 attendees, and dancing was from Mainstream to C1. There were 2 professional callers: Bill Eyler from New Mexico and Dayle Hodge from Maryland, and though they both have different styles, they melded well when calling together for the whole group.



The theme of the Fly-In was **Tahitian Tidal Wave**, and they invented a call with that name, which was quite do-able and fun! It kinda reminded me of the agitator in a washing machine, turn half this way, turn half that way, turn half this way! The only challenge on the weekend was trying to channel a tropical vibe when the temperature outside was only 1° or 2° Celsius, with the rain threatening to turn into snow, which it certainly did on Sunday! And as questionable a fashion choice as it may have been, I'm glad I wore my snow-flake long-johns under my kilt! Quirky, yet warm!

Many dancers dressed up for the Saturday evening pot-luck dinner and dancing, with much colour and pattern reflecting the Polynesian theme. This club always put on a wonderful dinner spread, with lots of choices and options. Yet, we missed seeing the rainbow jello mould this year! But there were many other choices for dessert. And there was always lots of snacks and drinks for us to enjoy the rest of the time, including some healthier choices of savoury and sweet.

My friends and I had a few of opportunities to rediscover the town a bit, including getting to an art gallery, the art museum, and do a bit of a walking tour of the downtown warehouse area. The walk included some circumnavigating the flooded riverside, as they have been experiencing a very wet spring. It's a town that continues to evolve, and it's great to see that many historic as well as industrial buildings are being refurbished. I look forward to returning next time, to share in Grand River Squares' friendly party, and to explore further their fine city.



(More photos, courtesy of [Terri](#) and [Don](#))

May 4 Brunch 'n T&D

Huge thanks to Colleen for hosting a delicious brunch on May 4; a warm sunny day so many of us dined outside among the luscious greenness of her garden. After brunch, some of us headed off to Guelph for an afternoon of dancing at the final T&D convention: Mike Moores, Don St. Jean, Chris, Charlotte & Beatrix, Denise Bruno, Susan Cox, and Colleen Dodds.



And these folks went "hard-core" for an entire weekend of T&D dancing: Jean, Howard, & Emma Lander, Terry Lenchner, Terri Rothman, Niall O'Reilly, and Joe Uebelacker.

([more photos](#), courtesy of Colleen)

Pride (written by [Crystal Chandelier](#) a.k.a Steve Sterritt)

It's a bird... It's a plane... It's... **"SUPERQUEER"**! Well, that's the theme of this year's Pride parade, which takes place June 30, the weekend before convention. Don't be a "no-show" like Mayor Rob Ford; Triangle Squares would like a large parade contingent this year since the conventioners might still be in town!

In the past, ?! had a fly-in with the same theme, so we're thinking our marchers might create their own superhero alter ego. Like "The Gayvengers" or "The Incredible Queer". Use your superpowers and telepathically transmit to me... no, better yet... [email me if you are interested in joining us](#).

As always, if you want help with a look, you can ask for help — there is a great creative element in the club that can be tapped into — or if that is not your thing, join us as your mild-mannered self, horn-rimmed glasses and all.

Don't make me get angry and turn all green and stuff. [Email me!](#) My outfit is way too nice to be torn to shreds!



Summer Season

?! has planned weekly dancing again this summer; all events are 7-9 pm. Please indicate on this [sign up sheet](#), at least 3 days prior, which night(s) you plan to attend. We need a minimum of 8 confirmed dancers; otherwise that night will be cancelled. NB. If your plans change and you **cannot** make it, please remember to **remove** your name from the [sign up sheet](#).

Jesse Ketchum (Wednesdays)

- **June 5:** Free, Convention Prep Funshop (recorded calls, at convention speed) : A2 (and C1, if we get a square)), with Susan Cox
- **June 12:** Free, Convention Prep Funshop (recorded calls, at convention speed): A2 (and Plus, if we get a square), with Susan Cox

519 Community Centre (Thursdays)

- **June 13:** Free, Intro to square dancing, caller Joe Uebelacker.
- **June 20:** Free, Mainstream Funshop, with Susan Cox
- **July 11:** \$5 pp, A1 / A2 / C1 dance, caller Joe Uebelacker
- **July 18:** \$5 pp, Mainstream + Plus dance, caller Don St. Jean
- **July 25:** \$5 pp, A2 focus (All 8 / All 4), with Tim Crawford
- **Aug 1:** \$5 pp, Plus Skills Workshop, with Costa Roussakis
- **Aug 8:** \$8 pp, Mainstream + Plus dance, caller Tim Crawford, includes fresh fruit
- **Aug 15:** Free, Intro to square dancing, caller Barry Clasper
- **Aug 22:** Free, A2 / C1 FunShop, with Susan Cox
- **Aug 29:** Free, Mainstream Funshop, with Susan Cox
- **Sept. 5:** \$10 pp, all-level club dance, caller Don St. Jean, includes pizza

Convention Tips

Dear first-time conventioners: are you ever in for a good time! We've received a few requests for info about clothing, vendors markets, etc., so we thought we'd pass along not only vital info but stuff we think you'll want to know.

1. Clothing: Apart from the Moonshine Tip, you can (mostly) wear what you want. But there are a few times when we all dress up. Those times are:
 - The Grand March, which leads in to a dance
 - The club photo (we'll be told our scheduled time when we get to San Francisco)
 - the banquet dinner and dance (but this is really up to you)
 For Grand March and club photo, if you have a club shirt, wear that with black or dark-coloured pants, if possible. If you don't have a club shirt, a white shirt is preferred. For the banquet, a lot of us dress up the same way — club shirt and black pants — but it's not necessary. It's just fun to go fancy once in a while.
2. It's a very good idea to have a kit bag of some kind with you during the day, with stuff you'll need, so that you don't have to constantly go back to your hotel room. For example: water bottle, breath mints, snacks, your hand-fan (you'll need it!), and changes of tops.
3. Bring LOTS of T-shirts, especially if you tend to get sweaty. No one likes to dance with someone who's sopping wet.
4. Shoes: Wear good, comfortable shoes. You're going to be on your feet a lot and your feet will pay the price if your shoes aren't good, and that will ruin your weekend.
5. Bring a bathing suit. And find out where the hot tub or whirlpool is. You're going to need it!
6. American money: If you're thinking of going to [Utah](#) or [St. Louis](#), you'll be able to pay for registrations in San Francisco. But they won't take credit cards. If you have an American chequing account, they'll probably take that. The safest thing is to bring cash. St. Louis will cost you either \$135, if you're willing to wait in a VERY long line to be among the first 100 registrants, or \$165. Personally, I don't think that saving the 30 bucks is worth the aggravation. And I'd prefer to be dancing instead of standing on line.
7. Cash: There's going to be a vendors market. It will be either very good or meh. You should have a supply of cash on hand — or an ATM card, to get cash — so you can spend a few bucks on whatever's available.
8. T-shirts and other apparel: There's usually a good supply of shirts available, even if you didn't pre-order. Probably available at the vendors market, but possibly at a registration area.
9. Plan to attend Honky Tonk Queen on Sunday night; It's late on Saturday evening. Check your registration package.
10. There are usually a whole bunch of specialty tips, and they're a ton of fun. HUGELY popular are the Bear Tip and the Leather Tip. Just about everyone goes to the Leather Tip. They're not really strict about the dress code. If you're wearing leather, great! If not, you'll still get to dance. But it IS more fun to get decked out in some fashion. Black — very popular. It's a blast, and not to be missed.
11. The Moonshine Tip: Yes, it's real. Yes, it's naked dancing. You're allowed to wear socks and shoes, but nothing more. This means everyone, including the caller(s). The Moonshine tip, aka the Moonlight Cotillion, is not listed on the online sked, of course, but it will be on the printed schedule. It's usually Saturday night.

Number of registrants to date, from the latest [SF convention newsletter](#)

- **By location:** Canada (59), New England (16), Mid-Atlantic (150), Southeast (69), Midwest (61), Mountain (50), Southwest (57), Southern California (106), Northern California (237), Pacific Northwest (71), Japan & Europe (6), Other/No club affiliation (157).
- **By gender:** Female: 303 (29%) Male: 734 (71%)
- **By dance level:** Mainstream: 33 (3%), Plus: 95 (9%), A1: 18 A2: 336 (2%), A2: 336 (32%), C1: 163 (16%), C2: 82 (8%), C3A: 55 (5%), C3B: 40 (4%), C4: 29 (3%), Non-dancer: 53 (5%), Unknown: 133 (13%)
- Vegetarian: 97, Undecided / still holding out for beef: 11

History Corner

In case you haven't seen the videos of dancing tractors (click each image, to view video):
1957: Early, Iowa (on left); 2008: Teeswater, Ontario (on right)



PDF versions of [Square Dancing](#), official magazine of *The Sets in Order American Square Dance Society*, published 1948 - 1985. These magazines are ["full text" searchable](#); here is one entry I found when searching "same sex" (Square Dancing, Vol. 35 No. 8; August, 1983)

On *Dancing By Definition*: I feel the article by Ed Heldt (March, Vox Saltatoris) requires a reply. One of his complaints was, Who wants to hold hands with the same sex? Does this mean that the following movements are to be considered unacceptable: Allemande thar, ladies chain, flutterwheel, men/ladies star, swing thru, spin the top, scoot back, coordinate, follow your neighbor, etc., and etc.? All these movements require that persons of the same sex touch hands at some point. If I were to be asked what movements are objectionable or undanceable on a same-sex basis, the list would include right and left thru, eight chain thru, star thru, curlique and box the gnat. I think the real complaint is that dancers object to being unable to execute a basic that they are familiar with by name but, through lack of training or exposure, are unable to execute from an unfamiliar or nonstandard position. Perhaps we need a definition of "dancing by definition."

Cohn Walton, Melbourne, Florida

"IAGSDC was created at a time when straight clubs did not permit gay and lesbian couples to join them in square dancing. It was a time when it was almost impossible to find a straight caller willing to call for a gay group. The Gay Callers Association was formed to fill the need for callers to call for gay clubs; and the IAGSDC was created to promote the activity for our gay and lesbian community.

Read about those early years in [Ten Years IAGSDC](#)"

Next issue

Deadline for contributions to this newsletter is the 10th of each month. This newsletter is emailed monthly to all current ?! members, and is posted on our [website](#). Hope you enjoy reading it. All links are current at the time of newsletter publication.

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