

Triangle Squares

Toronto's LGBTQ Square Dance Club

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- For **up-to-the-minute** club news, check our [Facebook page](#) and the news section on our [homepage](#).
- Thanks to those who contributed to this issue: Colleen Dodds, Mike Moores, Bill Eadie

Thursday Oct 31: ▲■ Halloween dance
Free! All club members invited, 7-9pm, 519 Community Centre



What's New

1. **Welcome to our new club members!** This newsletter is emailed monthly to every club member; it is also posted on our [website](#). Adjust your email spam filter; if you're certain you didn't receive this issue, please send your email ID to info@trianglesquares.com. In addition to this newsletter, check our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for the latest information. Each [class](#) has a webpage, which provides **videos and computer animations**, to help you review the calls that are taught each week.
2. Each week, please **remember to sign in** before noon of the day of class, to indicate whether you'll be attending; this lets our wonderful [angels](#) determine in advance if they will be needed. Click here to sign in for [Plus/A2](#) (Wed) or [Basic/C1](#) (Thurs).
3. If you're interested in **buying a white club shirt** with embroidered maple leaves (see photo), approx cost \$75, please reply by **Oct 31** to [Mike](#), specifying male/female, shirt size, short/long sleeves. We need a minimum of 12 shirts for an order.
4. **Fees** are now due: \$115 class fee (per semester) and \$20 annual membership fee (see [details](#) for payment options).

5. Our "**silent**" demo was unfortunately rained out, on Sept 7 and again on Sept 21. We were hoping to recruit more club members, by via a public demo showing how enjoyable square dancing can be. Our plan was to wear MP3 players (audible only to each dancer,) synchronize playback start, then dance to a recorded call - see [previous issue](#)). Reasons for this approach:

- can perform in very visible, public outdoor locations eg. Dundas Square (no need for permission, which would be required for private locations, such as Eaton Centre)
- avoid the need for permits for amplified sound
- don't have to lug sound equipment, or find a nearby AC power outlet
- won't offend anyone with our choice of [music](#)

We hoped that our "silent" square dancing would look sufficiently bizarre to get some attention (so we could hand out club postcards advertising upcoming classes). **Thanks** to our demo team members for rehearsing: Eleanor, Terri, Niall, Bill, Susan, Colleen, Mike M, Paul and Christine. Thanks also to others who also participated in earlier rehearsals: Jack, Bob, and Steve. If we're feeling exhibitionistic, you may see this demo team in action at the Xmas party.

6. We're ordering badges. Every 2nd year dancer gets a free, permanent nametag; we'll contact you for details. For long-time club members who want a **replacement badge**, it's approx \$16 for pin backing, or \$19 for magnet. Or you can order a magnet for your current badge, for approx \$3.00. To order magnets or replacement badges, please contact [Susan](#) by **Friday Oct 11**.
7. A good contingent of Triangle Squares members attended Don Moger's A2 AfterBlast weekend Oct 5-6, in Cornwall - see [pics](#).



Upcoming

- **Oct 31:** ▲■ Halloween dance, 7-9pm, 519 Community Centre, caller Joe Uebelacker. In order to welcome the newest Basic dancers to the club, our Oct 31 club dance will be **free for everyone**. Please bring snacks to share. Costumes are optional but encouraged; we'll have prizes for the best costumes. NB. street parking in the vicinity will be extremely limited. After the dance, you can continue to display your costumed wonderfulness; venture out onto Church St to enjoy the Halloween festivities, late into the night. Church St will be [closed to car traffic](#) on Oct 31 (7pm - 2am), from Wellesley to Alexander St.; there will be [many costumed revellers](#) roaming the streets.
- **Nov 8-9:** [Fall Magic](#), Peterborough. Callers: Don Moger, Tim Crawford, Joe Uebelacker, Dave Hutchinson. Plus & A2, with extra A1 & C1 sessions.
- **Nov 14:** ▲■ AGM, 7-9pm, 519 Community Centre, [election of new steering committee](#) (not too late to submit your name), likely time for some dancing after the formal part of

the meeting

- **Dec 8:** ▲■ Xmas dance/potluck: 3-5:30pm dance, 6-7:30 supper
- **May 9-10, 2014:** [Spring Magic](#), Burlington
- **May 22-25:** ▲■ [Fly-in](#) Scoot Back to the 60's
- **July 1-4, 2016:** [Maple Leafs Regroup](#) (IAGSDC convention, in Toronto!), in the historic Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Want more dance events?

- Check out Toronto & District [event list](#) as well as IAGSDC [event list](#).
- Click here for events in [2014 and beyond](#)
- The Aug 2013 mailing from IAGSDC contains these [flyers](#):

Oct 3-6 (Denver), Oct 5 (Santa Ana, CA), Oct 18-20 (Palm Springs), Oct 25-27 (Portland), Nov 8-10 (York, PA); 2014: Jan 31-Feb 2 (Palm Springs), Feb 14-16 (Washington), Feb 14-16 (Phoenix), Feb 14-17 (St. Petersburg), Feb 28-Mar 2 (Austin), July 3-6 (Salt Lake City)

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



Square Dancing is a Team activity!? (written by Mike Moores)

It's true! Square dancing is a team activity as the other members of your square are counting on you to dance correctly so that the square as a whole can be successful. It's a great feeling of accomplishment and fun to be part of a square that doesn't break down and is able to complete a dance. Here are some tips to ensure you are doing your part towards square dance success:

- Attend every class. It can be quite difficult to catch up if you miss the teaching of 2 or more calls.
- If you do miss a class, ask the caller or an angel to help you with the calls you missed. They are there to help!
- Everyone gets confused by a call at some point. Ask your caller for clarification and more practice. And during breaks, grab an angel or two and get them to help out as well.
- It's a good idea to review the calls taught by looking at the definitions online. Each class (eg. [Basic](#), [Plus](#), etc) has their own webpage, containing links to videos and animations which illustrate the calls taught each week. Reviewing these will help to solidify your learning.

Square Dance Angels (adapted by Colleen Dodds)

What Is A Square Dance Angel?

Angels are people who help out by attending classes at a level that they have already completed. They help by filling in squares so that all class members may dance. Angels discreetly, privately, carefully and subtly indicate correct movement through the square, giving dignity and encouragement. They are NOT INSTRUCTORS. Most callers appreciate the support and help of experienced dancers, especially in the beginning classes. "Angels should recall their own first square dancing attempts and their own first classes. An Angel will not bring his "dancer ego" into the lesson sessions. Angels remember that we all had to be shown right hand from left hand."



An Angel:

1. An angel guides the new dancer so that, only two people know that guidance was given - the one who guided and the one who was guided. Guidance is subtle - never pushing, pulling or humiliating.
2. An angel does not attempt to explain a new movement during the time the instructor is talking. A new dancer cannot listen to two people at the same time. Answer any questions between tips or take the student to the instructor for help.
3. An angel is careful not to say anything even in jest that may hurt a new dancer's feelings or make him feel inferior or humiliated.
4. An angel tries to be as slow as a learner while new movements are being taught. Does not do the movement until it has been explained.
5. An angel only dances if a square is incomplete without him.
6. An angel will offer his place in a square to any student who comes in late. The angel sits out, not someone who is a student at that class level

Benefits Of Being An Angel:

1. If you are a club member it's a free night of dancing!
2. It's a great review of calls you might seldom hear at your class level.
3. It's the perfect opportunity to learn the opposite role (lead or follow) from what you danced first.
4. You get to socialize with a group of dancers you wouldn't meet otherwise.
5. You'd be helping out the club by volunteering your time and dance skills.

DANCE WITH THEM: We want to keep the new students in our club, so we all should dance with them, talk with them during breaks, encourage them. One of the biggest complaints heard from new dancers is that current members don't make them feel welcome or wanted in the club.

▲■ Volunteer

Please consider **getting involved in helping to run our club**. This is an odd-numbered year, so these **steering committee** positions are open: President (2-year term), Secretary (2-year term), Publicity Coordinator (2-year term). Any position (including President) can be held by two people, but any position can vote only once. Our [current committee](#) is Susan Cox, Colleen Dodds, Mike Moores, Peter Brych and Bill Eadie. Susan and Bill are not running for re-election. The AGM will be Thursday, November 14, at 7 pm, at the 519.

The 2014 **Fly-In committee** members - Paul Kivisto, Steve McKeown, and Don Cheff - will be making "[Scoot Back to the 60s](#)" happen on May 22-25, 2014.

Planning is underway for [IAGSDC 2016](#); **convention committee** members are John Bailey, Lee Godfrey, Michiel Bagchus and Chris Homer.

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.

2013 issues:

[Jan](#)[Feb](#)[March](#)[April](#)[May](#)[June](#)[July](#)[Aug](#)[Sept](#)[prior years](#)