



TRIANGLE SQUARES

Newsletter

August 2018

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RECENT HAPPENINGS

It was a long, hot summer in Toronto, and as per tradition, Triangle Squares and most other clubs went quiet. But that didn't prevent our dancers from participating in dance opportunities near and afar.

The annual **IAGSDC Convention, Circle Back to Seattle**, was held in Washington, this year. One of the big moments, and a complete surprise, was the awarding of the **Golden Boot Award** to Barry and Pam Clasper. The fabled Golden Boot is presented to an individual, couple, or organization who has made an exceptional contribution to the gay square dance community. Barry and Pam are certainly well deserving, and in august company, including Anne Uebelacker (1995). Congratulations to both. Marge went through the GCA Caller School and called at several sessions. Andy mentioned, for logistical purposes, some of the normal features, such as the Grand March, were omitted this year. Below, he provided a report on the follow-up cruise to Alaska. The group photo from Seattle and all past conventions can be found in our **History** page. Next year's convention will be in **Philadelphia**, which should have a good-sized contingent from Toronto.



Another group headed off to London, Ontario, for the **Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention**. This is held every two years, the next one being 2020 in **Surrey, BC**. Lots of familiar callers were on the roster, including **Barry Clasper, Joe Uebelacker, and Tim Crawford**. **Andy Chong** and **Don St. Jean** were also invited, specifically to round out things in the Challenge Room. The Covent Garden Market quickly became a go-to place for the lunch break. Pictured here in the Plus hall, Jeff Priest was one of the convention organizers and in great voice. **Judy Greenhill** kept things lively in the Contra room. As with the U.S. National, all callers at this convention volunteer their time.



Once again a big thanks to Peter and Tom for hosting the **Summer Pond Picnic**. They had a minor crisis that week with a big tree suddenly falling in front of their house. Luckily, only minor damage was sustained, and the picnic went on as planned. The location is really quite spectacular, and it's a wonder you're in Toronto at all. Here Bev and I are sampling some of the apple ciders, which is the new big thing.



Thanks also to **Susan** and **Marge**, who organized the summer series of **Funshops** at The 519, just so we don't completely forget everything between May and September. Here they're

pictured with **Moneesha**, who also took her turn at the mic. She's becoming quite a talent in her own right. Triangle Squares is very fortunate to have such a pool of talent to draw on.

If you couldn't attend one of the Funshops, no worries, we have a **Get the Rust Out dance** planned at The 519, Sep 20. More details below.



Lots more photos of these and other happenings in our [Flickr group](#). Feel free to add your own photos, or send them to me and I'll add them. Social media publicity lives on photos.

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IAGSDC Memorial Panels

Colleen Dodds

*The IAGSDC and its member clubs have a number of traditions which help preserve the memories of dancers who have passed away. The most moving of which are the **Memorial Tip** and the **Memorial Panels**, both of which are features of the annual IAGSDC Convention. Here is a report from Colleen about this year's memorial. The quilts are displayed in a quiet room, and each club can request a private time.*

In Seattle this past July, Triangle Squares members assembled in the Memorial Room after our club photo to pin the badge of **Reg O'Brien** who died in the autumn of 2017. His widow Anne had graciously allowed us to have his dance badge for this purpose. Reg's name was entered in the

official records book along with the names of past Triangle Squares members whose badges have been pinned on the quilts. These are the names:

Alan Dearnley	Triangle Squares	2
Bruce Neilson	Triangle Squares	2UL
Cameron Moosewah	Triangle Squares	2UL
John Rutledge	Triangle Squares	2LL
Matt Beach	Triangle Squares	2UL
Paul Kivisto	Triangle Squares	2UL
Rick Monsos	Triangle Squares	2UR

The numbers following each name indicate the Quilt number and upper or lower left or right side where each badge is placed. Reg's badge was placed in the upper left side of quilt #2 so after his name it will show 2UL alongside our recent dancers Cam Moosewah, Paul Kivisto, and Matt Beach. This lovely tradition allows us to revisit our late dancers each year at convention and know that their badges will attend all future conventions.



Square Dance Cruise to Alaska

Andy Chong

After the end of the 2018 IAGSDC Convention in Seattle, there was an optional Alaska cruise, 7 days round-trip on the Emerald Princess. The organizer got a Fun Badge Tour bus to take us to the pier, and we didn't incur extra airfare.

The callers were Anne Uebelacker and Vic Ceder, who brought along their wives, plus Vic's daughter and her boyfriend. There was a morning and an afternoon session of 2 hours of dancing on each of the 3 "sea" days - Monday, Friday, and Saturday (though we docked in Victoria Saturday evening). We only had around 30 in our group, on a ship with 3,400 passengers, so we did not have much clout in getting space. The first session was on a curved acrylic disco floor "up top", where we squeezed in 3 squares, while the rest was in a bar / pub midships with a wood dance floor that fit 2 squares. We could not bump the trivia players and others from nicer dance spaces. Also, the Friday and Saturday sessions were 8:30-10:30, and 3:00-5:00, likely to give the staff lots of time to set up / conclude the Gastropub lunch.

The base level of dancing was either Mainstream or Plus, depending on who was there, and that was every other tip. The remainder was increasing programs of dancing - most sessions got up to C1, though 1 session got to C2. Breaks could take longer if someone spotted a whale, and Friday / Saturday breaks might include a pre-recorded round dance.

Most of us tried to dine together at the late seating (7:45), though the 4 Taiwanese dancers (and at least 2 non-dancing husbands) dined elsewhere. Anne, as onboard leader, had to negotiate to have some tables reassigned, since several (included myself) were initially placed at tables far away. But we rarely got everyone together. Some had not brought "formal" clothes, and ate in the buffet restaurants those nights. We all got one complimentary dining upgrade, so different people were dining elsewhere on different nights. My roommate and I ended up in the same restaurants as the callers and their families on the same night, but different tables and slightly different times. On the last night, it was only those of us who declined to disembark for Victoria dining with the Ceder family, who dashed off the ship, took photos, and came back on in time for dinner.

I was the only member of Triangle Squares there, though I met a couple on land who were cruising on another ship. We also had a square dance interloper, someone who had purchased a trip on the same ship before he knew there was a square dancing group. Joining us was Belle, the Philadelphia 2019 Convention mascot.

The weekend after coming home was the Canadian National Square Dance Convention in London. There I found out that the next Canadian National convention would be in the **Vancouver** area (Surrey) in early August 2020, and they were also planning a post-convention **Alaskan cruise** [with Don Moger], but probably a different cruise line. Anyone considering going? I'm looking for a roommate.



WHAT'S AHEAD

Here's what's on the calendar in the coming months:

- **Meet Your Neighbours Event**, Barbara Hall Park, Sat, **Sep 8**, noon-6pm. We've been invited to staff a booth in this CWNA-sponsored community event. We'll also have a demo square on-stage at 4:00 pm.

- **Veer North to the Capital**, Ottawa Date Squares 1st Fly-in in a decade. Gary Monday & Barry Clasper callers, **Sep 14-16**. [flyer](#)
- Returning dancers: **Get the rust out!** Barry will call all-levels (Basic-C1), Thu **Sep 20**, 7-9 pm at The 519. Come on out and see how much you remember (hint: lots).
- Our **Open Houses** this year will be Thur, **Oct 4 & 11**, 7-9 pm, at The 519. Bring friends. Coerce relatives! Print [flyers](#) and post them around your 'hood.

Classes begin (see our calendar for more details):

- A2 teach, Jesse Ketchum, Wed **Sep 26**, 7-9 pm
- Full Basic/Mainstream, The 519, Thur **Sep 27**, 7-9 pm
- C1 teach (carry-on from last year), 15 Maitland Pl., Thu **Sep 27**, 7-9 pm
- Plus Teach, Jesse Ketchum, Wed, **Oct 3**, 7-9 (please attend MS refresher **Sep 27**, The 519).

Stay tuned to our [Events](#) page as updates are added. Our [Calendar](#) cross-lists select IAGSDC Fly-ins and regional Toronto & District dances.

Fly-In News

We encourage Triangle Squares members to head off to Ottawa for their up-coming Fly-in, [Veer North to the Capital](#), Sept 14-16. It's an excellent opportunity to reciprocate when their dancers came to Toronto this past May, and we can talk up our next Fly-in in May 2019.

We're in planning-mode for next year's Fly-In, ***Wheel and Deal***, **May 24-26, 2019**. The callers will be **Kris Jensen** and **Joe Uebelacker**. Mark your calendars. Early-bird registration fees in effect until Dec 31. Details on the [Fly-in page](#).

If you'd like to help out with the planning, we're always looking for new ideas. Please contact us at satb@trianglesquares.com.

Contributors

Thanks to Niall O'Reilly, Colleen Dodds, and Andy Chong for writing articles for this issue, and Terri Rothman for being editor-in-chief.

Photos courtesy of Niall O'Reilly, Pam Clasper, Colleen Dodds, Terri Rothman, and Andy Chong.

We welcome contributions of photos or a feature article. Send them to the club Publicity Coordinator: publicity@trianglesquares.com.