



Big Sky News Square Dancing

New Year edition | Year 2023 | Big Sky News

Announcement

Happy 2023 – Let's get started

David.Hinds@MontanaSquareDancing.com

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Editor Comments

It is all about me. As your editor you may have noticed I've been missing for a while. Well let me fill you in. Last year, now that we are in 2023, I met Judy and my life has been a whirlwind ever since. This is a good thing. Come June 16th 2023 we will have the "Big Day" and of course you are all invited. (Location: Oscar's Park, 3740 Wise Ln, Billings, MT 59101 – Time: 5 to 9 PM)



Meanwhile in preparation we now own a house in Sierra Vista AZ where in July-Aug we will move to. The houses that we have in Great Falls and Billings (Judy is from Billings) are going for sale. Great Falls right now and Billings in the summer. Why do I tell you all this?

Well to that end I am looking for someone to take over Montana Square Dancing.com and the Big Sky News. Interested? Give me a call (406) 799-1715 and we can discuss. I can help from afar but really need to transition this.

Now onto the news. First let me be the first to tell you that I have been LACKING in getting out the News and the Website updates. Sorry. I could give you a number of reasons (lame excuses) but the most compelling is I just don't



have much to report. I have heard from Plains, Lolo, and a little

from Helena. Unfortunately even in Great Falls things are very very slow.

We are excited to be hosting Montana State in 2023 in Great Falls and don't forget USA West and Nationals are going on in 2023 too. Some place to head in the summer months for sure.

Thanks! Keep dancing.

David Hinds

Montana State Festival 2023 – Great Falls MT

Caller: Mike Sikorsky

As a CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach and a CALLERLAB Board of Governors elected member. Mike is also vice chair of the Music Producers Committee.



He is the recipient of the 2017 Best of Mesa award in the entertainer category. He called his first full square dance for the Roaring 20's young adult club in July 1972 in Van Nuys, California. They expected 6 couples and 11 squares attended! Credit 3 surprise visitations, with all night markets and convenience stores being invented 10 years later. Have you ever seen doughnuts cut into eighths and a thimble of punch dribbled into a Dixie Cup?

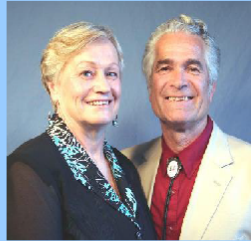
Mike later discovered his maternal Grandfather, Oscar, was an old time square dance caller, calling "Wagon Wheel" and "Red Wing" every summer Saturday night on his farm to the music being played by whatever banjo or guitar player showed up. They'd put all the furniture out in the yard and put one square in the kitchen, one in the living room, and one in the bedroom. He'd shout the calls to the kitchen square, they'd shout the calls to the living room square, and they'd shout the calls to the bedroom square.

Mike graduated from Calif. State University Northridge (CSUN) in 1978 with a Bachelor's Degree, paying his own way with the money he made square dance calling. Of Mike's square dance calling, his college friends said, "Well, it beats flipping hamburgers!"

In November 2010, Mike Sikorsky became an author, publishing Vol. I of his own defined method of Patter Calling, the *Activator-Stream method*, where one sequencing of calls (an Activator) has a variable allowing for at least 10 different variations.

Cuer: LaMont Harris

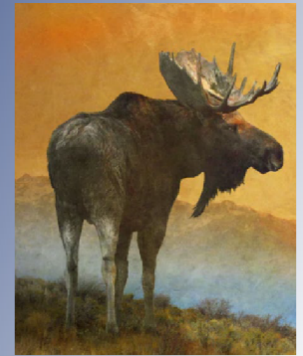
We are Laraine and LaMont Harris. We live in Preston, Idaho. Our principal hobby is round dancing. We began square dancing in 1972, while residing in Hawaii. However, in 1975 we quit dancing to raise a family. We returned to square dancing in 1998, and began round dancing in 2000. We treasure the friendship from all the friends we have made while dancing. We became Round Dance leaders in 2005 and have been programmed at many Festivals and weekends. We love to dance and hope to see you at a festival sometime, somewhere.



52nd Annual Montana State Square & Round Dance Festival

May 26–29, 2023

"Shake it Loose at the Moose"



See you in Great Falls at the Moose Lodge
401 21st St.
Black Eagle, MT 59414

Questions: Contact Joann Yates
at (406) 799-1071

Montana State Festival 2022 – East Helena MT



Registration Form

Pre-registration deadline May 1, 2023

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Number of Adults @ \$35.00 (\$45 aft 1 May) _____

Family Package: @ \$80.00 (\$100 aft 1 May) _____

Checks payable to: Dudes N Dolls

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Mail Registration to:

George Yates
2 Shamrock Lane
Great Falls, MT 59405
Phone (406) 799-1070

All Event Price

	Couple	Solo	Family
Before May 1	\$70	\$35	\$80
After May 1	\$90	\$45	\$100

Individual Sessions

(only payable at the door)

	Couple	Solo	Family
Friday Night	\$16	\$8	\$20
Morning Sessions	\$16	\$8	\$20
Afternoon Sessions	\$16	\$8	\$20
Sat or Sun Evenings	\$20	\$10	\$20

RV Camping on site

Dry Camping Only!
Sorry, no showers
available

Donation to
the
Moose Lodge

Program Schedule

(subject to change)

Friday, May 26, 2023

4:00 pm RV Parking Check In
4:00 - 6:00 Registration
8:00 - 10:30 Trail-In Dance
All Caller/All Cuer

Saturday, May 27

9:00–10:30 Easy Level Round Workshop
10:30–12:00 Mainstream
1:00–2:00 Easy Rounds Dance (II & III)
3:00–4:00 Plus Dance
4:00–5:00 "A" Level Dance
7:00–7:30 Pre-rounds
7:45 Grand March
8:00–10:15 Mainstream Dance w/Rounds
(single plus tip announced)
10:15 After Party

Sunday, May 28

9:00 -10:30 Phase III + Round Workshop
10:30 - 12:00 Plus Workshop
1:00–2:00 Intermediate Rounds Ph. III+
2:00–3:00 Plus Dance
3:00–4:00 "A" Level Dance
4:00–5:00 Mainstream to Plus Workshop
5:00–6:00 State Meeting
7:30–8:00 Pre-rounds
8:00–10:30 Mainstream Dance w/Rounds
(multiple plus tips announced)

Monday, May 29

9:00 -11:00 Trail-Out Dance
All Caller/All Cuer

Welcome to the 52nd Montana State Square and Round Dance Festival. Dancing for all age groups and all levels making for a wonderful Memorial Day Week-end here in Great Falls MT at the Moose Lodge



USA West 2023 – Albuquerque, New Mexico



20th USA WEST SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION®

July 26-29, 2023

**Marriott Albuquerque Hotel
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

newmexico.usawest.net



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY				Where will you be dancing? (check all that apply)	
Last Name _____		First Name _____		Squares: <input type="checkbox"/> MS/SSD <input type="checkbox"/> Plus <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Challenge	
Address _____				Rounds: <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 3/4 <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 5/6	
City _____		State _____		Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Line Dancing <input type="checkbox"/> Contra	
Email _____				Are you a <input type="checkbox"/> Caller <input type="checkbox"/> Cuer <input type="checkbox"/> Contra Caller <input type="checkbox"/> Line Dance Cuer	
Phone _____		Cell Phone _____		(Please fill out a caller/cuer profile form on our website)	
REGISTRATION FEES				WEDNESDAY NIGHT EVENTS	
Pre-Registration (August 15, 2021 thru June 25, 2023): Adult \$70.00 / Youth \$35.00				(see other side for further information)	
Door Registration (Beginning June 26, 2023): Adult \$80.00 / Youth \$40.00				Trails End Dance	
Check website for State Festival Convention Discount Specials				Convention Area at the Marriott Albuquerque	
FIRST NAME	--for BADGES--	LAST NAME	COST	Donation (paid separately): \$8.00 at the door	
ADULT _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	TOTAL REGISTRATION \$ _____	
ADULT _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	** _____ **	
YOUTH _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	PAYMENT INFORMATION	
YOUTH _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	
Round Dance Syllabus # _____ \$8.00 each, Flash Drive only			\$ _____	Make checks payable to 20 th USA West Square Dance Convention	
			\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (Circle: VISA MC AMEX Discover)	
			\$ _____	Name on Card _____	
SUB-TOTAL			\$ _____	Card Number _____	
CANCELLATION FEE: \$10 PER REGISTRATION / NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER 6-25-2023				Exp Date _____ Sec Code _____ Billing Zip Code _____	
No ribbons mailed after 6-25-2023				Signature _____	
Return this form with payment to: David and Bonnie Funk, 13901 E Marina Dr #511, Aurora, CO 80014-5506				CONVENTION USE ONLY	
				Registration Received: _____ Ribbon # _____	

Randy and Lorraine Pratt, General Chair (generalchair@newmexico.usawest.net) / 505-415-1124 / 505-301-9635
David and Bonnie Funk, Assistant General Chair (assistantchair@newmexico.usawest.net) / 303-483-8021 / 303-345-8744

07/27/21

USA West 2023 – Albuquerque, New Mexico



DANCE AND STAY UNDER ONE ROOF!

All dancing will be at the
Marriott Albuquerque, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Dance and Explore the Land of Enchantment – Albuquerque in 2023



HOTEL INFORMATION

Please contact the hotel directly to book your room reservation.

Marriott Albuquerque

2101 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

505-881-6800 or 1-800-228-9290

Reference 20th USA West Square Dance Convention

Room blocks not currently open for phone reservations.

Hotel Room: \$119.00 per night, plus tax, single or double occupancy
(room rate applies July 23 - August 1, 2023)

Reservation deadline June 26, 2023 to secure this rate

Parking: **Free** for all hotel guests and convention attendees

Amenities: Smoke-free property; enhanced cleaning of facility:
complimentary wi-fi, heated pools, fitness center, business
center, on-site bar and restaurant

An online reservation link will be available nearer to the event

*

Exploring Albuquerque and the Land of Enchantment

What to do in ABQ:

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

Albuquerque Old Town

Sandia Peak Tramway

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

National Museum of Nuclear Science & History

Petroglyph National Monument

ABQ BioPark Botanic Gardens, Zoo and Aquarium

San Felipe de Neri Church

La Luz Trail

Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

Turquoise Museum

Albuquerque Isotopes Baseball

Numerous restaurants featuring local cuisine, casinos, shopping and FUN.

(Maybe not as much fun as we are having at the 20th USA West Square
Dance Convention but worth your exploration.) New Mexico is, after all,

The Land of Enchantment. <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org>

RV CAMPING

Summer is prime time in Albuquerque and campgrounds can be expensive.

Check our website for information on camping options.



Check out our website at newmexico.usawest.net

Randy and Lorraine Pratt, General Chair (generalchair@newmexico.usawest.net) / 505-415-1124 / 505-301-9635
David and Bonnie Funk, Assistant General Chair (assistantchair@newmexico.usawest.net) / 303-483-8021 / 303-345-8744

07/27/21

72nd National Square Dance Convention®

Mobile, Alabama



Pre-Registration 72nd National Square Dance Convention® Mobile, Alabama June 21, 22, 23, & 24, 2023

REGISTER ONLINE at www.72nsdc.com

REGISTRATION NUMBER

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Primary Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Partner's (if different): _____ First Name: _____

Youth Names & DOB: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Country: _____ Email: _____

☐ Check if you do not want your email shared. Email addresses to be shared only with the NEC for upcoming convention information

Phone: (____) _____ Alt Number (____) _____

Registration Prices (U.S. currency only) \$50.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Youth born after June 21, 2005 \$25.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Cash Received \$ _____ Check# _____ (Pay to 72nd NSDC) **Total Due: \$** _____

Credit Card Type _____ Card # _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Security Code _____ Name of Cardholder: _____

Statement Mailing Address (if different) _____

Authorized Card Signature: _____

IF REGISTERING BY MAIL: Registration Chairman: Ann Leithauser 205-908-1058
72nd National Square Dance Convention® PO Box 613, Leeds, AL 35094 registration@72nsdc.com

\$10 cancellation fee per registration. No refunds after April 30, 2023. This form and registration rate are void after April 30th, 2022. Registration Long Forms will be mailed April 2022 for selection of hotel and additional items. Early registration gives you free admittance to the Pre-Convention Kick Off Dance on April 30th, 2022. Convention badges required for entrance to all convention activities; Dressy casual attire allowed until 6:00pm. Proper dance attire is required After 6:00pm for all dancers.

HELP US PLAN! Please CIRCLE all that apply

Dancers: Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging, Handicapable, SOLO

Leaders: Squares, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging, Education Presenter: Topic _____

Arrive Early or Stay Late? # Days _____ Camp, Stay at Convention Hotel, or Other Accommodations?

Group name: _____ Do you need Block rooms, Meeting Room, Storage Space?

Tour, Education, Program or other suggestions? _____

WHO MAY WE THANK FOR YOUR REGISTRATION? _____

Internal Use Only) Accepted by _____ Date _____

Registration Location _____ **RECEIPT NUMBER** _____

7/28/2019

Party Gras 2023

This won't be your typical dance festival – it's gonna be a PARTY GRAS! We are planning an exciting weekend of dancing opportunities, socializing opportunities, sightseeing opportunities, and entertainment to ensure you have a great time.

**3 days and 4 nights of dancing to the Best Callers in the Nation!
All Levels of Square Dancing plus Rounds, Contra, Lines, and Clogging. Ghost Riders Live Band at night.**

**After Parties every night!
All dancing in one facility!**

Sightseeing, Hotels, and over 50 Restaurants within walking distance!

Ya'll Come on Down to Alabama and Dance with Us!

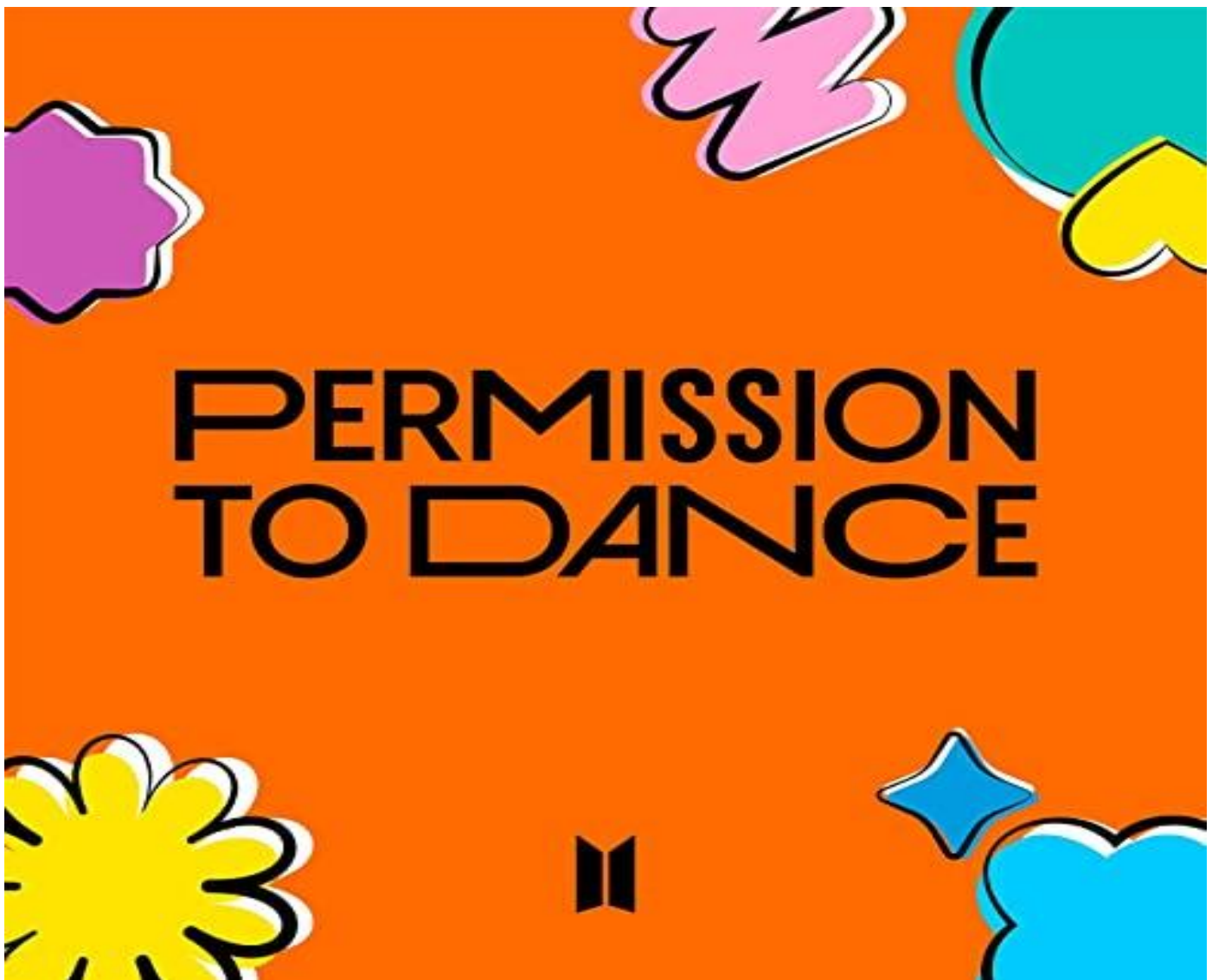
All Dancing in One Facility

Beaverhead Boot Scooters!

In Dillon Mt the new club, the Beaverhead Boot Scooters have been moving along. With Butch Suttley is our caller and instructor our first lessons (started Sept. 10th) was a great success. We dance at the at the Senior center in Dillon Mt. We are hosting our first dance May 21st.

Thank you,

Tricia



Great Falls

Really tough going. We've lost so many members that putting together a square is a challenge. We attempted lessons in September and sorry to say was not a success. Still looking for new opportunities and trying to schedule a dance once a month at least. Of course we are looking forward to hosting the State Festival in 2023 as we race to Great Falls. So much still to do.

Thanks

Shalom

Joann



Helena

Helena Last Chance Squares dance every 2nd and 4th Saturday beginning at 6:30 pm at the Hamilton Building at Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds in Helena, MT. Cost is \$7 per person. We thank all of you that have traveled to attend our dances and we're hoping we can reciprocate in the coming months! We all know the more the merrier applies when it comes to square dancing!

Flyers and registration are available on our website at www.helenalastchancesquares.com



Plains

MONTANA MAVERICKS

Plains

Darlene Jolly

The “Montana Mavericks” square dance clubs May dance with Ed Evans of Port Orchard, Wa calling turned out great. Lorrie Lane was unable to attend, so we had some recorded records for rounds. Not nearly as great as a live cuer, but did allow the round dancers to dance some. We had 2 squares with dancers from Missoula area & also Kalispell.

Our June dance with Adam Christman calling & Lorrie Lane cueing, went well – lots of laughter. Maybe that meant a “few” mistakes, but more than likely it meant everybody was having a great time. 2 squares with guests from Missoula area & Kalispell and 11 Mavericks. Idaho state Festival was happening in Sandpoint, so 1 club member was there – he belongs to one of those clubs also.

4 of us went to Idaho state on Friday evening. Had a great time there also.

We do not dance in July, so our next event is the St. Regis Roundup which we sponsor at the Community Center in St. Regis. Dry camping is available. Adam Christman is calling & Lorrie Lane is cueing. Call 406-826-8951 for information.



Plains

MONTANA MAVERICKS

Plains

Darlene Jolly

The “**Montana Mavericks**” square dance club members continue in the “crip” class – crip or other family issues. Our November dance was called by Adam Christman & cued by Lorrie Lane. We had a couple squares in attendance & everybody had a great time. Thank you to our guests.

Our December dance was called by Gary Baker & cued by Lorrie. So we made a few mistakes. Everybody was having a great time tho & that is what counts. We had 8 guests, 3 our ever faithful (& we sure do thank them) from Kalispell, 2 from Libby, 2 from Hoo Doo Valley & 1 from Missoula area. The rest were Mavericks. 14 attended an after party at Darlene’s with gift exchange & Ice cream, cake & a pie that Terry brought. Fun time.

We have a great class going this year. We have one retread couple from years ago in Nebraska, 1 new couple & their adult son, 1 single man & 1 single woman. We also have 2 retreads of our own. Circumstances didn’t let them dance much after promotion, so they are back catching up. They are a great bunch of folks and we are delighted to have them.

We dance on first Saturdays (thru the dance season – October thru May) at the Sr. Ctr in Plains. It is directly behind the VFW & facing the same direction. We start with plus at 7 & go to Mainstream at 7:30 to 9:30. We also dance 2nd Saturday in September and June. We do NOT dance in July. In August we have our St. Regis Roundup at the St. Regis Community Center on 3rd weekend of August. We have also been having a special anniversary dance on 4th Sunday of September some place different. In 2023 it will again be at the Lonepine Hall in the afternoon.

Any questions contact Darlene at 46-826-8951.

Billings

Appears to be dancing. I have not had any real input however their website has been updated with new information.

Please view www.SquareDanceMontana.com



Lolo

The Yellowrock Campground is proud to host the Solo Stars square dance club.

Solo Stars' Mountain Mixer

June 2 - 3

Caller/Cuer:

Adam Christman (WA)

See flyer for details

*June 15 - 17:

Ed Holyoke (WA) - Caller

John & Joy Rich (WA) - Cuer

*June 22 - 24:

Steve Sullivan (ID) - Caller

Larry & Susan Sperry (MT)-Cuer

*June 29 - July 1:

Gary Baker (WA) - Caller

Butch Suttey (MT) - Caller

John & Joy Rich (WA) - Cuer

Notes:

*July 6 - 8:

David Hinds (MT) - Caller

Chuck & Sand Weiss (AZ) - Cuer

*July 13 - 15:

Jay Henderson (ID) - Caller

Chuck & Sand Weiss (AZ) - Cuer

Mainstream Week July 18 - 22

Jerry Junck (NE) - Caller

Chuck & Sand Weiss (AZ) - Cuer

July 18: 7 pm - Rounds

7:30pm - MS & Rounds

July 19-22: 10 am - Round Wrkshp

2 pm - Mainstream Wrkshp

7 pm - Rounds, 7:30pm - MS Dance

**Package (\$65 pp all wrkshp & dances)

Wrkshp (\$7 pp per session)

Evening (\$12 pp per dance)

*July 27 - 29:

Bill Henke (SD) - Caller

Chuck & Sand Weiss (AZ) - Cuer

*August 3 - 5:

Lynn Strobel (MT) - Caller

Larry & Susan Sperry (MT)-
Cuer

LOLO STOMP - Plus

Jerry Junck (NE) - Caller

Lynn Strobel (MT) - Caller

Larry & Susan Sperry (MT)-
Cuer

Aug 10 - 12:

10 am - Round Wrkshp

2 pm - Plus Wrkshp

7 pm - Rounds

7:30 pm - Plus Dance

**Package (\$50 pp all wrkshp & dances)

Workshops (\$7 pp per session)

Evening (\$12 pp per dance)

MOUNTAIN MIXER

Sponsored by The Solo Stars



Friday Program:

7:00 - 7:30 pm

Pre-Rounds

7:30 - 9:30 pm

*Mainstream Squares w/
Rounds*

**Announced Plus Tip*

Featured Caller & Cuer:

Adam Christman



Weekend Package:

\$35 per dancer

Daytime Workshops:

\$7.00 per dancer per session

Night Dances:

\$12.00 per dancer per session

Saturday Program:

10:00 - 11:30 am

Round Dance

2:00 - 3:30 pm

*Square Dance Workshop
(Caller's choice)*

7:00 - 7:30 pm

Pre-Rounds

7:30 - 9:30 pm

*Mainstream Squares w/
Rounds*

**Announced Plus Tip*



9955 Highway 12 West
Lolo, MT 59847

Make Camping Reservations:

(406) 273-0141

www.yellowrockcampground.com
yellowrockcampground@gmail.com

Questions?

Butch Suttley

(208) 503-0551

Tim & Dee Casey

(406) 218-8677

June 2-3, 2023