

GRAPEVINE

Volume 133

Yellowstone Square Dance Council

December 2025

Billings Plus Group

Lynn Strobel, Bob Hogemark, Hunter Keller, callers
7:00-9:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church
Saturdays, see website or calendar for dates

December is another short month for us with the **All Callers and Cuers Christmas Dance** on **December 6th** and Hunter's **Pre-New Years Eve Dance** on the **27th**. While these are billed as Mainstream dances, we hope all the Plus night dancers will join in the celebrations. We all know that it's those pesky Mainstream calls that seem to goof us up, so these dances will let us get some practice in. Either that or we can show the Mainstream dancers whole new ways to create chaos on the floor, right?

The last of our snowbirds will have left us by the end of the month. We'll miss you all. Thanks for dancing with us while you were here, and thanks Larry and Susan for the cueing.

We haven't seen the Wyoming ladies for a while but understand that the short daylight hours and now the unreliable weather may mean we'll be seeing less of them. We sincerely appreciate their dedication and look forward to dancing with them whenever you're able to come.

We wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas!

Merry
P *Christmas!*
Peace
E *On*
Earth

LOOK!

Yellowstone Square Dance Council

COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, December 13 • 5 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

These meetings are open to all square and round dancers. You may have ideas you'd like to see addressed, or implemented, or just thrown "out there" to see what sticks. They may not seem like much, but it's those ideas that keep a group fresh and growing. So come join us, share your ideas for the new year, then come back and celebrate said new year at Hunter's Pre-New Year's Dance.

USDA Insurance...

So...What Did I Just Pay For?

First, we'd like to thank everyone for their cooperation as we collected the Insurance/YSDC Dues for the 2025-26 dance season.

*Documents such as insurance policies often read like gibberish. Here is an introductory explanation of our USDA **supplemental** insurance as it appears on the USDA website:*

Every square dance organization needs General Liability and Accident Medical Expense coverage while conducting and sponsoring dance activities. As closely as safety rules are followed, accidents can and will happen. This insurance program,

especially designed for USDA dance groups, provides Accident Medical insurance, which helps protect club members from financial loss due to a covered accidental bodily injury, and Liability insurance, which protects the club and its members and association officials from financial loss due to unforeseen incidents which may develop into litigation against members and dance organizations.

We will continue with more information in the January Grapevine. There will also be some discussion about insurance at the YSDC Council meeting on December 13.



Check Our Calendar, Then Mark Yours, Then...
Let's Dance!





Checkerboard Squares

Bob Hogemark, Caller
Thursday evenings Mainstream
7:00-9:00 First Presbyterian Church

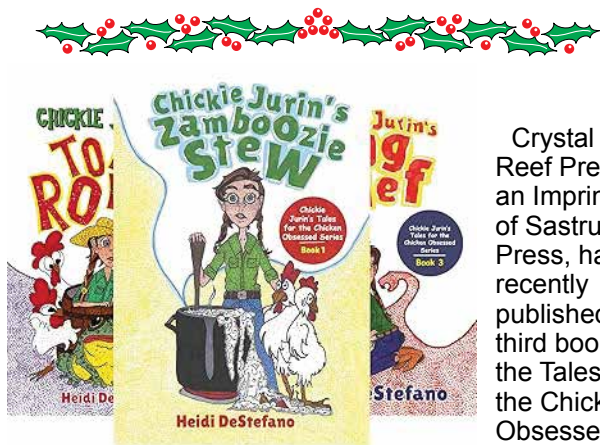
The Checkerboard Squares are still fortunate to see three squares on the floor on Thursday nights. Sometimes we even manage to get four; that is, if everyone gets out there and some of the “gents” are wearing skirts. Thank heaven for those “BOY” badges!

Do you have any 9 to 12-year-olds on your Christmas list? Our very own author, Heidi DeStefano, will have her children's books available at our December 11 dance. We bet if you ask real nice, she'll even sign them for you!

Since both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Thursdays we'll be “dark” on those days. We won't be short-changed, though. The **Christmas Dance on December 6** and the **Pre-New Years Eve Dance on December 27**, both Saturdays, are Mainstream dances. So all the Thursday dancers except for the beginners will feel right at home there.

As for the beginners, I wouldn't be surprised if one of our regular dance nights didn't have a little Christmas in it for you, too.

Merry Christmas to all!



Crystal Reef Press, an imprint of Sastrugi Press, has recently published the third book in the Tales for the Chicken Obsessed series for

ages 9-12: CHICKIE JURIN'S EGG THIEF! The series begins with CHICKIE JURIN'S ZAMBOOZIE STEW and CHICKIE JURIN'S TOAD RODEO and features a ten-year-old school misfit who wants to be the chicken expert of the world. When her family inherits a Montana ranch, Chickie is thrilled to leave town and have a chicken coop she can call her own. Not everyone in her family is excited to live in the middle of nowhere, though. Chickie must convince her career-minded mother and her siblings: know-it-all Kate, feather-pulling Tom, and perfect Steven that the ranch has space for everyone's dreams. Priced at \$13.95 per book or \$40 for the whole set, Chickie Jurin's adventures would make a great Christmas gift for young readers.



Silhouettes

Larry & Susan Sperry, Hunter Keller, Cuers
Sundays: see website for times
<http://www.larrysperry.com>

For several years, we were gone to Arizona by the end of October. This year we are here until end of December. We have two extra months to work with our clubs here in Billings.

The two Silhouette groups had a November filled with reviews and new teaches. We had pretty good attendance in spite of Thanksgiving. We have been reviewing Phase 4 and 5 Foxtrot, Rumba and Slow 2 step figures and dances on Monday nights.

We are missing Gene and Suzette while he recovers. Several, including me, are experiencing various problems requiring physical therapy, but we are still able to dance and enjoy.

The Tuesday night dancers are a total delight for Susan and me. We love teaching new dancers. They are eager, fun and very good students. They have learned about 8 waltzes. Part of this group are still learning some new Phase 3 Rumbas, Chas and Jives. Thanks to Bob and Ann Hindley for video taping the sessions, editing and sending out to the group. It is very helpful for everyone.

It is a real treat to cue for the Thursday and Saturday square dance clubs because many of our new beginners are eager to get up and dance with the “pros.” We are dancing in December. Mondays are December 1, 8, 15 and Tuesdays are Dec 2, 9, 16. The December 16 night will be a party night for both groups. Dancers will bring some favorite finger foods. The entire evening will be cued dances at a variety of phase levels and rhythms. Larry will include several Christmas songs to celebrate the Season.

Larry will also cue at two special December dances, the **Callers Christmas Dance on December 6** and the **New Year's Dance on December 27**. We are leaving for Arizona on December 28th and will return April 4. Silhouette classes will resume April 6, 2026. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Larry and Susan Sperry



December 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 	1 Silhouettes 7-9 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	2 Round Dance Waltz Lessons (Closed) 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	3	4 Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	5	6 Callers & Cuers Christmas Dance Mainstream/Rounds 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
7	8 Silhouettes 7-9 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	9 Round Dance Waltz Lessons (Closed) 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	10	11 Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	12 	13 COUNCIL MEETING 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
14	15 Silhouettes 7-9 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	16 ROUND DANCE PARTY 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	17	18 Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	19 	20 Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
21	22	23	24	25 NO DANCE Merry Christmas!	26 	27 Pre-New Year's Eve Dance Mainstream/Rounds (Hunter) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
28	29	30	31	1 NO DANCE <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3 Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian

RING IN THE NEW!

Yellowstone Square Dance Council Grapevine YSDC Executive Committee 2025-2026

December 2025

Office	Name	Phone	Email Address
President	Dave Nelson	406-652-5849	dnels@bresnan.net
Vice President	Brent Littler	406-480-0076	bwlittler@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dee Littler	406-480-0978	goodtogomom@gmail.com
Secretary	Pat Hastings	406-696-0281	pathast@live.com

YSDC Standing Committee Chairpersons

Committee	Name	Phone	Email Address
Grapevine Editor	Ann Hindley	406-373-6959	achindley@gmail.com
Insurance	Dee Littler	406-480-0978	goodtogomom@gmail.com
Improvement Board	Hunter Keller	406-690-2640	Hunter@HunterKeller.com

Callers and Cuers

Name	Phone	Email Address	Website
Caller Bob & Wnette Hogemark	406-690-3363	bhogemark@pcsd5.org	
Caller Hunter Keller	406-690-2640	Hunter@HunterKeller.com	hunterkeller.com
Cuer Larry & Susan Sperry	406-656-1093	sperryescue@earthlink.net	larrysperry.com
Caller Lynn & Judy Strobel	406-234-7384h, 406-951-1088c	strobell@midrivers.com	lynnstrobel.com

Club Dance Locations

Square Dance: First Presbyterian Church, 13th Street West and Poly Drive, Billings

Round Dance: Casa Village Rec Hall, 110 Tracer Drive, Billings

Yellowstone Square Dance Council (YSDC) Grapevine Newsletter

YSDC is an educational, non-profit organization for the promotion of square, round, folk, clogging and related dance instruction in the eastern Montana-northern Wyoming areas. Please send Grapevine mail to **Ann Hindley, Editor YSDC Grapevine, 3143 Cline Rd., Billings, MT 59105.**

Address all articles and correspondence to the editor. You may also send editorial matter via email to **achindley@gmail.com**. Photos may be mailed or may be submitted in high resolution digital format via email. The deadline for all materials is the 20th of the month preceding publication.

YSDC CLUBS WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Day	Time	Club	Location
Monday	7-9 p.m.	Silhouettes Round Dancing	Casa Village Rec Hall
Tuesday	7:15-8:45 p.m.	Beginner Round Dancing (closed)	Casa Village Rec Hall
Thursday	7-9 p.m.	Checkerboard Squares beginners/mainstream	First Presbyterian Church
Saturday	7-9 p.m. p.m.	Plus Dancing (as scheduled, see calendar)	First Presbyterian Church

Visitors dancing at the appropriate level are always welcome at any club dance. No dress code. Please check the monthly calendar elsewhere in this newsletter and also our website for schedule updates and cancellations.

OPEN DANCE SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Event	Featured Caller/Cuer	Location
December 6	7-9 p.m.	Callers' Christmas Dance	All Callers & Cuers	First Presbyterian, Billings
December 27	7-9 p.m.	Pre-New Year's Eve Dance	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
January 24	7-9 p.m.	Fourth Saturday Frolic*	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
March 28	see flyer	Spring Dance	Lynn Strobel	First Presbyterian, Billings
May 8	7-9 p.m.	Beginner Hoedown	Bob Hogemark	First Presbyterian, Billings
May 2	several	Magic City Hoedown	Butch Suttley, L&S Sperry	First Presbyterian, Billings

* All 4th Saturday Frolic dances are mainstream dances by callers as listed above, with round dancing between tips.

STATE, REGIONAL & NATIONAL DANCES

Date	Event	Featured Caller/Cuer	Location
May 2	Magic City Hoedown	Caller: Butch Suttley Cuer: L&S Sperry	Billings, MT
May 22-25	2026 Montana State Festival	Caller: A. Allemao Cuer: L. & S Sperry	Helena, MT
June 24-27	Ph. 4 Round Dance Clinic	Larry & Susan Sperry	Lolo, MT
June 24-27	Nat'l Square Dance Convention	All Callers/Cuers	Waco, TX
July 10-12	Plus on the Boulder	Lynn & Judy Strobel, Larry & Susan Sperry	Big Timber, MT
July 31-Aug. 1	Mainstream at Lolo	Lynn & Judy Strobel, Larry & Susan Sperry	Lolo, MT
August 6-8	Lolo Stomp Plus Weekend	Lynn & Judy Strobel	Lolo, MT
September 10-13	Buggy Stomp	Sperry, Strobel, Guille	Laramie, WY

**Flyers for many of these dances can be viewed at www.squaredancemontana.com and/or caller websites
We'll also have flyers at the club dances at First Presbyterian. Check them for more details.**