

GRAPEVINE

Volume 123

Yellowstone Square Dance Council

October 2024

WELCOME NEW DANCERS!

We're happy you've decided to join us. Right now you may feel like you're just dipping your toes in the water to see what this is all about. But just wait... very soon, as each Thursday rolls around, those same toes will be tapping and eager to hit the dance floor.

There's a saying in square dancing: "Join a square, make a circle of friends." You're dancing into a world where people love their activity, love to share it and are ready to do whatever is needed to nourish it. It's not a place where you just lay down your money, dance and go home. Square dancing is interaction with each other in the square, which in turn leads to connection with other dancers even after the dancing's done. In turn, that trust jump-starts new friendships, and community comes naturally.

And what's better than a community centered on fun and friendship? It's a safe spot where the only "agenda" is sharing with each other the enjoyment we all find in dancing. We laugh when things fall apart and we celebrate when the whole square "clicks." Then the social time between tips gives us time to build the connections that we've begun on the floor.

Then at the end of the evening, when we make our big circle, you'll see for yourself that you've joined a circle of friends. We're glad you're here, hope you are, too!



We Love Visitors!



At their September 26 club dance, the Checkerboard Squares were honored to host guests Drea and Oli Kuester of Germany. Oli is a square dance caller, and the Kuesters are on a mission to dance in all 50 states...for the fourth time! Montana is the 32nd state in which they've danced this time around. Next on their itinerary are South Dakota, Nebraska Kansas and Colorado. They're participating in the United Square Dancers of America (USDA) USA Travel Program, which they first learned about while dancing in Indiana.

This isn't their first time dancing in Billings, having danced here before in 2016 when they danced at the Big Sky Roundup.

When asked about differences in dancing throughout the US, they mentioned that styling was the most noticeable difference among various areas of the country. The biggest difference they find between dancing in the US and Germany is that all-position dancing is an exception here but the norm there.

The Kuesters have relatives in Florida and Oregon so they've had the opportunity to simply be visitor/tourists as well. They say it's much better to be here as a dancer where there's of a sense of belonging that's missing when they're simply tourists.

Thanks for dancing with us, Drea and Oli!



Silhouettes

Larry & Susan Sperry, Hunter Keller, Cuers
Mondays 7-9 p.m., Casa Village Rec Center
<http://www.larrysperry.com>

The Silhouettes have a lot of fallout due to health issues. We are canceling October Monday nights. The beginner class is strong and can dance about eight different phase 3 Rumbas and 3 phase 2 Waltzes. We are working on Amanda right now. We will have class Oct 8, 15, 22.

We leave Oct 24 for Arizona. Hunter will cue once a month Nov-April. On a personal note, our granddaughter, Emily, is getting married Oct 5. We are very happy for her.

Larry and Susan Sperry

**Happy
Halloween!**

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

The biggest past news in the Plus world was the good time had by all at the September Spectacular with Adam Christman and our own Hunter Keller along with rounds by Larry and Susan Sperry on September 20 and 21. Adam had to do double duty on Friday night as Hunter's voice flew the coop. Hunter was back on Saturday with an interesting bass tinge to his voice and a few sounds we've not heard coming from Hunter before.

If you missed it this year, don't despair. It's all happening again in 2025 on September 19 and 20 with Mike Seastrom joining Hunter and the Sperrys. Turnout was a little light this year, so in order to keep this event going, there needs to be at least six squares registered by July 1, 2025. Otherwise, they'll have to cancel the Spectacular. This event is way too much fun to let that happen. You can register by going to Hunter's website, hunterkeller.com.

The biggest upcoming news is the Plus Dancing/Lessons Kickoff on Saturday, October 5. This day is for those who are very comfortable with Mainstream level and are ready to tackle Plus level. Naturally, current Plus dancers are very welcome. Learning is so much easier when you dance with experienced people. Sessions are from 3-5 and 7-9 pm. New Plus dancers are strongly encouraged to attend both sessions. Cost is \$10 per person per session or \$15 per person for both sessions. See you there!



Checkerboard Squares

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

We started dancing again on September 19. We did see many of you at the summer dances and it's great to welcome back even more since then. Bob's still running around the big circle, Rhonda's still baking her yummy treats, and we have indoor plumbing!!! In other words, things are just about perfect. We just have to welcome back those who are still missing from the summer. We're sure that will happen soon.

As you read on the front page, we had some distinguished guests at our dance on September 26. Not only were they a pleasure to dance with, they also brought a glimpse of the square dance world beyond our city and our state. Best of all, they were just a fun couple. One of Oli's badges read "I'm smiling. That alone should scare you." That should tell you something!

Seems like we just went through this (we did!), but here we go again. Our new dancer season is about to begin with introductory dances and class registration on October 17 and 24. The decision was made to start early so that Bob could give our next set of beginners more time to get comfortable with dancing and to learn all of the Mainstream calls at once rather than having to refresh and then learn the rest after the summer break.

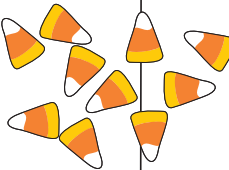

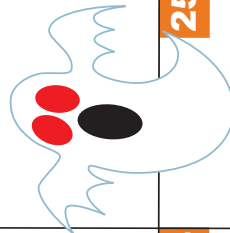

We have flyers and date cards with the beginner lesson information. We also acquired some promotional videos directing folks to our lessons and will be sharing them on Facebook. But the best promotion is you yourselves. Invite anyone you know who might be interested. You might even offer to bring them! We wouldn't be here if we didn't enjoy square dancing, and the only way we can keep on enjoying it is to keep refreshing our numbers. So invite EVERYONE!!!

Speaking of Facebook, did you know the Checkerboard Squares has its own private Facebook account? Drop us a request and we'll make sure you're in. The Yellowstone Square Dance Council also has a public Facebook page, and the squaredancemontana.com website is full of information covering dancing in Billings and beyond.

Check them all out, but more important, check out the dancing in our new digs if you haven't already. See you across the square real soon!





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		Round Dance Beginner Class 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall		Checkerboard Squares Mainstream 7:00-9:00 pm First Presbyterian		PLUS DANCING/ LESSONS KICKOFF Lynn Strobel 3-5, 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Round Dance Beginner Class 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall		Checkerboard Squares Mainstream 7:00-9:00 pm First Presbyterian		Plus Lessons and Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Round Dance Beginner Class 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall		BEGINNER CLASS REGISTRATION Checkerboard Squares 7:00-9:00 pm First Presbyterian		Plus Lessons and Dancing (Hunter) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				BEGINNER CLASS REGISTRATION Checkerboard Squares 7:00-9:00 pm First Presbyterian		4TH SATURDAY FROLIC Mainstream (Hunter) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
				Checkerboard Squares Mainstream & Lessons 7:00-9:00 pm First Presbyterian		Plus Lessons and Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian

Yellowstone Square Dance Council Grapevine YSDC Executive Committee 2014-2015

October 2024

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Caller Lynn & Judy Strobel	406-234-7384h, 406-951-1088c	strobell@midrivers.co	lynnstrobel.tripod.com

Club Dance Locations

Square Dance: First Presbyterian Church, 13th Street South 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 and payments to **Ann Hindley, Editor YSDC Grapevine, 3143 Cline Rd., Billings, MT 59105.**

Address all articles, ads, correspondence and related payments 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.

Subscription price for the Grapevine is \$8.00 per year and is published monthly October through May. Multiple copies mailed to the same address are \$5.00 each copy per year. The Grapevine is furnished at no charge to member clubs of the YSDC. The Grapevine exchanges with other square dance organizations.

YSDC CLUBS WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Day	Time	Club	Location
Monday	7-9 p.m.	Silhouettes Round Dancing	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
October 5	3-5 & 7-9 p.m.	Plus Dancing Lessons Kickoff	Lynn Strobel	First Presbyterian, Billings
October 26	7-9 p.m.	4th Saturday Frolic*	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
November 23	7-9 p.m.	4th Saturday Frolic*	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
December 7	7-9 .m.	Christmas Dance	Local callers and cuers	First Presbyterian, Billings
Mar. 22, 2025	2-4, 6:30-9 pm	Spring Dance	Lynn Strobel	First Presbyterian, Billings

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

STATE, REGIONAL & NATIONAL DANCES

Date	Event	Featured Caller/Cuer	Location
May 24-27	2025 Montana State Festival	Caller: A. Christman, H. Keller, Cuer: L.Lane	Ronan, MT
June 14	Plus Workshop & Dance	Lynn & Judy Strobel	Forsyth, MT
June 25-28	Nat'l Square Dance Convention	All Callers/Cuers	Shreveport, LA
July 11-13	Plus on the Boulder	Lynn & Judy Strobel, Larry & Susan Sperry	Big Timber, MT
August 7-9	Lolo Stomp Plus Weekend	Lynn & Judy Strobel, Jerry Junck	Lolo, MT
Aug. 29-Sept. 1	Knothead Jamboree	All Callers & Cuers	West Yellowstone, MT
Sept. 19-20	September Spectacular	M. Seastrom, H. Keller, L&S Sperry	Billings, MT

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