

# GRAPEVINE

Volume 132

Yellowstone Square Dance Council

October 2025

## Welcome New Dancers!

We're so happy that you've decided to give square dancing a try. We all made the same decision at one time or another and you can see how many of us are happy we did. We hope you'll feel the same way.

Square dancing may be taking you outside your comfort zone a little and we congratulate you for taking that step. 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... soon 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." We've been told by other types of dancers that square dancers are the friendliest bunch of all. Well, we're dancing with everyone, so we can't help it!

That's what makes square dancing a little different. You're not just interacting with your partner or your small group of friends. You're dancing as a team with the others in your square. You're coordinating with them and helping each other figure things out. In this kind of situation, strangers don't remain strangers for long!

The connections we build as we dance together lead to a sense of community off the dance floor as well. It's not a place where you just lay down your money, dance and go home. It's a community centered on fun and



### Checkerboard Squares

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

A few weeks ago a young man called saying his mom and grandmother were visiting, that they were square dancers and he asked if they could come dance with us. Of course we said yes. Then we asked where they were visiting from. Germany! And that's how we got to meet and dance with Uli and Barbel. They were visiting Billings to meet their one-month-old granddaughter/great-granddaughter. They enjoy dancing wherever they go, but their previous visits to Billings have not been during the dance season. So this was their first time dancing here. We're happy the timing was finally right and we got to meet these two delightful ladies. We compared notes about dancing in our parts of the world and discovered we have the same fun and the same challenges.

We're looking forward to meeting more new friends as we welcome beginners on October 16 and 23. We'll probably have something brewing for Halloween, too...join us!



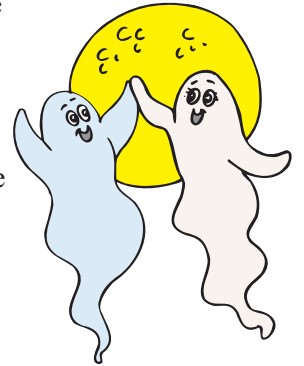
## Happy Halloween!

friendship, 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."

OK, so this is still a beginner program, which means (uh-oh) lessons. That just means that you're in for some serious fun.

Our caller Bob knows how to get you dancing and already having fun after learning just a few calls. So if you're serious about faithful attendance, listening and learning you can't help but have fun. 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. That means we're all on your side and we want you to succeed.

And 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!



### 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

Plus dancing is almost here; our first dance is October 4. Therefore we don't have a lot of news to share just yet. There aren't enough Mainstream dancers ready to advance to Plus currently, so Plus lessons won't be offered this year. Lynn still has plenty in store for us though. He says: "Instead, we will try to insert some dbd (dancing by definition) to give dancers the opportunity to experience

the various movements from non-standard positions." Speaking from experience, this will give you a whole new look at what you thought you already knew and an increased confidence in your dancing. You'll love it!

# B

## A Little About Our Caller

*Thought you'd like to know, so we asked!*



**How long have you been dancing?** I started dancing 54 years ago.

**How long have you been calling?** I started calling 45 years ago. My dad's brother was a caller (Ray Hogemark) and my cousin (Ray's daughter) is married to Gene Sondeno who was also a caller. Gene is the person who encouraged me to

try calling and helped mentor me when I first started. Bart Bartlette, a caller from Livingston, also gave me good advice when I first started calling.

**Clubs for which you've been the caller?** Big Sky Stompers, Big Sky; Hilltop Hoedowners MSU College Club; Half Pairs, Billings; Challengers, Billings; Country Cutups, Columbus; Checkerboard Squares, Billings.

**Didn't you also do some dude ranch calling?** Yes, during the summers for 37 years. I called every week from mid June until the end of August for the guests and staff at the 9 Quarter Circle Guest Ranch south of Big Sky. I also called at several other guest ranches usually just once or twice. I have called at wedding receptions and rehearsals. All of these events are an introduction to square dancing, similar to the first night of beginners lessons.

**How about "real life"... teaching, coaching, your family?** As a teacher and coach, I always tried to be positive with the students and enthusiastic when presenting lessons. My hope was always to have a very positive impact on all of my students. I am very thankful for my parents. They instilled a strong work ethic, responsibility and dedication. I am super proud of our daughters. They are both hard working career women who balance family with work and play. My wife and I met at square dance class at MSU Bozeman. I was the caller and she was a student in the class. My wife is awesome, she keeps me grounded while pushing me to try new experiences.

**What do you like about square dancing?** The people. The dancers, callers and cuers that I have met are always good people. I enjoy visiting with people.

**What do you like about calling?** I really enjoy the mental challenge of calling. Planning different ways to teach and present calls so that the dancers can have success is something that I spend a lot of time thinking about. I also enjoy finding different ways to combine calls and ways to resolve squares.

**What would you like the beginners to know about square dancing? What advice would you like to give them right from the start?** Square Dancing is a participation activity, so don't be bashful, get out on the floor and dance! The biggest key to successful dancing is being a good listener. Have fun and don't be afraid to laugh and giggle.



## Silhouettes

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

Our club has had a few injuries that have caused dancers to miss. Also a few that had out of town travels. We hope to get back to full strength soon.

The Monday group learned a new rhythm, Quickstep. We also started working on some higher level Foxtrot figures. We had requests to review a Phase 5 West Coast Swing dance named Pontoon West Coast. We did so and we will review it again as needed.

The Tuesday group is now dancing a little bit phase 4 Rumba, Jive, Cha Cha and Slow 2 step. They have been great students and we appreciate that they get up to dance that Rounds at Square Dance nights.

We start a beginner Waltz Class on Tues Oct 14 from 7:30 to 8:45 at Casa Village Rec Hall. We are also planning a Holiday Round Dance Party for all of our Round Dancers on Tuesday Dec. 14 from 7:15-8:45 at Casa Village Rec Hall.

That will be our last session prior to leaving for Arizona after Christmas. Hunter Keller is going to cue some nights for Silhouettes while we are gone. More on that schedule later.

*Larry and Susan Sperry*

## Coming Attraction!

### WALTZ LESSONS

WITH

LARRY & SUSAN  
SPERRY

Tuesdays starting Oct. 14, 2025

*Class will run through Dec. 16*

**Casa Village Rec Hall**

7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

*Larry will cue a few  
Rumbas, Chas, Jives for  
experienced dancers from 7:15-7:30*

**COST:**

**\$8 PER PERSON PER SESSION  
INFORMATION:**

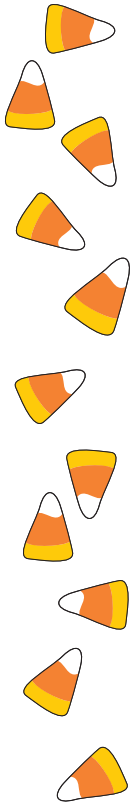
**CALL LARRY @ 670-3210**














## USDA Insurance

When the Yellowstone Square Dance Council met on September 18, an important item of discussion was the requirements of the USDA (United Square Dancers of America) insurance program. This is a secondary insurance policy covering a dancer wherever he or she dances. Payments are due yearly by December 1 and are included in your \$10 annual YSDC dues. Beginners are covered through the end of their first season of lessons. In other words, if you began lessons in October of 2024, you were covered until the end of the lessons in April, 2024 but are now dancing uninsured until the new insurance period begins. To remedy this, we're asking the members of the "class of '25" to pay \$6 to cover them through December. If you'd like to simplify matters, you can pay \$16 now to cover insurance for the rest of this year plus 2026 dues.

October

2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b> Silhouettes 7-9 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	<b>30</b> Round Dance Beginner Class (closed) 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> Checkerboard Squares Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> Checkerboard Squares Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> Silhouettes 7-9 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	<b>14</b> Round Dance Waltz Lessons 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> Checkerboard Squares <b>BEGINNER REGISTRATION</b> Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b> Silhouettes 7-9 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	<b>21</b> Round Dance Waltz Lessons 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b> Checkerboard Squares <b>BEGINNER REGISTRATION</b> Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>4th</b> <b>Saturday Frolic</b> (Hunter) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> Silhouettes 7-9 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	<b>28</b> Round Dance Waltz Lessons 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b> Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	<b>31</b> 	<b>1</b> Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian



## Yellowstone Square Dance Council Grapevine YSDC Executive Committee 2014-2015

October 2025

Office	Name	Phone	Email Address
President	Dave Nelson	406-652-5849	dnels@bresnan.net
Vice President	Brent Littler	496-480-0076	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
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Caller Hunter Keller	406-690-2640	Hunter@HunterKeller.com	hunterkeller.com
Cuer Larry & Susan Sperry	406-656-1093	sperryscue@earthlink.net	larrysperry.com
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 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	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 25	7-9 p.m.	Fourth Saturday Frolic*	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
November 22	7-9 p.m.	Fourth Saturday Frolic*	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
December 6	7-9 p.m.	Callers' Christmas Dance	All Callers	First Presbyterian, Billings
March 28	several	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

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