GRAPEVINE

Volume 141 Yellowstone Square Dance Council November 2026



Thank You to our callers Bob, Lynn and Hunter, cuer Larry, First Presbyterian Church and to you, our dedicated dance family! None of this would happen without you!



Silhouettes

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

We had a slow month at our Round dance clubs. Susan and I were gone to St. George the first week of October. We had a dance on Monday, October 12 but canceled October 13 because we were sick. We canceled Monday, October 19 since several were still sick.

We had our first Rumba/Cha session on Tuesday October 20 with only 3 couples. The next week Casa Village Rec Hall was closed due to a water leak and the resulting damage. We only danced twice in October with six canceled nights. Several Square and Round Dancers were sick during the middle of October. Hopefully we are past it now.

Larry and Susan Sperry

WINTER'S COMING

It's that time of year when Mother Nature likes to surprise us. When the forecast turns gloomy and the road conditions challenging, keep an eye on your email for news of dance cancellations. We want all our callers and dancers, both from Billings and beyond to stay safe so we can all dance another day.

When the weather turns sloppy, we recommend that you bring dry footwear to change into so we can be kind to First Presbyterian and their beautiful floor.

Thank you!

The following is taken from an article that appeared in the October-December, 2025 issue of "USDA News." Most of it is just common sense, but it never hurts to be reminded of these "rules of the road" (dance floor) once in a while!

Dance Etiquette

Daryl Clendenin

Remember, we are much more than just a dance. We are a social function and have an obligation to deal with others in a way that will promote friendship and enjoyment for all. Many of the rules for dancers seem obviously "common sense." A few, though, are tailored to our activity.

No Alcohol Before The Dance. Our dance movements seem confusing enough sometimes without being impaired on top of it.

Fill The Squares Quickly. When the music starts, that means it's time to dance. Enter the dance floor ***with a partner***. If you need a partner, it's acceptable to stand at the edge of the floor and hold one hand in the air indicating that you're ready to dance. Join the first square you come to; it's not polite to pass a square that needs a couple just to join a square of friends or better dancers. It's also not polite to walk through the center of a square in order to join it; walk around the outside to the nearest open position. If your square isn't full, hold up the number of fingers to indicate how many couples you still need.

Never Leave A Square. It's an insult to the members of a square if you leave it before the tip ends and you've taken the time to thank everyone. Of course this doesn't apply in the case of an emergency. In an emergency, everyone will understand.

Smooth Dancing. It's always safe and acceptable to do the moves as they were originally taught. Personal flourishes can sometimes be fun for you; but for some dancers, the extras may be clumsy, confusing, or even dangerous. Extra kicks, stomps and twirls can get in the way of the timing and the space of other dancers. Don't rush. Taking one step for each beat of music should move you through

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LOOK!

Remember, your insurance and dues payment (total $12.00) is due by December 1. Quite a few have already done so. If you dance with several groups, please let them know where you've paid. Thank you!

ETIQUETTE cont. from p. 1

the choreography comfortably and in unison with the other dancers in the square.

Be Gentle. Using the proper handhold without squeezing, pushing or pulling will ensure an enjoyable dance experience for everyone in the square.

Shhhhh! There should be only one caller giving directions to the dancers. Laughing is fun. Smiling is fun. Even the occasional whoop or holler at the appropriate time can be fun, but loud talking or making noise (such as unsolicited instruction) that competes with the caller's commands is not helpful.

At the end of the tip, always take the time to thank everyone in the square. Likewise, at the end of the dance, stop by and thank the caller and cuer.

As always, remember, it's a people thing first and a dance second. Treat others as you'd want to be treated and everything will be all right.



Welcome back to Plus Night! Fun at the Dancing and Lessons Kickoff Oct. 3

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

Dancers at the Plus Dancing & Lessons Kickoff numbered 38 including two beginner couples and old friends from Billings, the Miles City area and Wyoming, including some folks we hadn't seen for quite a while. It was a fun night and a great way to welcome our beginners.

The following week, October 10, saw a scheduling conflict at the church, so we danced in the back room. We got a bonus lesson on how to keep our squares small!

Lynn has e-mailed a list of everything we've learned so far and everything we're going to learn this season. So now we know where we're going. Thanks Lynn!

Lynn also called the Fourth Saturday Frolic Oct., so we were treated to an extra Lynn evening in October.

The Callers & Cuers Mainstream Christmas Dance is on December 5, then we'll be back December 12. Have a great Thanksgiving!

Checkerboard Squares

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

Between our two beginner signup nights, we met 16 new dancers. They're a great bunch who are getting into the swing of things pretty quickly. We hope they'll be with us for many seasons to come. We also welcomed some familiar faces that we've not seen for a number of years. Dave and Susan sure didn't forget much; there's something to be said for muscle memory! Vickie also made an appearance with her new husband Charlie who she's convinced to give square dancing a try. Welcome back!

Our Halloween Dance on October 29 brought almost four squares. The pesky bug that's been floating around has definitely made an impact on attendance. Didn't notice too many tricks but as usual we had an abundance of treats.

Yours truly had a senior moment and handed out the costume contest prizes in reverse order. At least they got the correct prizes though! Winners were: 1st: Cheryl Stewart (one of our new dancers!), 2nd: Heidi & Ray Destefano, 3rd: Dave Nelson. Congratulations and thanks for playing!

Lynn's calling made it a special 4th Saturday Frolic on October 24. Thanks everyone for coming and making Lynn's trip from Miles City worthwhile. With all the holidays coming up, there won't be another Frolic until January 23.

November will be kind of a slow month for Thursday night dancing. We have no caller available on the 12th, so we'll be dark that night. Then of course, Thanksgiving is on the 26th and we won't be dancing then either, although we'll probably need it!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



Halloween contest winners at Checkerboards: L to R: Cheryl, Dave, Heidi and Ray

November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Silhouettes 6:30-8:30 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	3 Tuesday Round Dance 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	4	5 Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	6	7 Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
8 AUTUMN	9 Silhouettes 6:30-8:30 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	10 Tuesday Round Dance 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	11	12 NO DANCE Caller Not Available	13	14 Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
15	16 Silhouettes 6:30-8:30 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	17 Tuesday Round Dance 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	18	19 Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	20	21 Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
22	23 Silhouettes 6:30-8:30 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	24 Tuesday Round Dance 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28 NO DANCE Thanksgiving Weekend
29	30 Silhouettes 6:30-8:30 pm Casa Village Rec Hall (Larry)	1 Tuesday Round Dance 7:15-8:45 pm Casa Village Rec Hall	2	3 Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian	4	Callers & Cuers 5 Christmas Dance Mainstream w/Rounds (Local Callers & Cuers) 7-9 p.m. 1st Presbyterian

YSDC Executive Committee 2025-2026

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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	Casa Village Rec Hall
Thursday	7-9 p.m.	Checkerboard Squares beginners/mainstream	First Presbyterian Church
Saturday	7-9 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 5	7-9 p.m.	Callers & Cuers Christmas Dance	All Local Callers & Cuers	First Presbyterian, Billings
Jan. 2, 2027	7-9 p.m.	New Year's Dance	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
Jan. 23, 2027	7-9 p.m.	Fourth Saturday Frolic*	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
February 27	7-9 p.m.	Fourth Saturday Frolic*	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
April 24	7-9 p.m.	Fourth Saturday Frolic*	Hunter Keller	First Presbyterian, Billings
May 1	several	Magic City Hoedown	Caller: B. Suttey Cuer: L&S Sperry	Billings, MT
May 13	7-9 p.m.	Beginner Hoedown	Bob Hogemark	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 28-31	2027 Montana State Festival	Caller: Adam Christman Cuer: L. & S Sperry	Lolo, MT
June 12	Plus Workshop & Dance	Lynn & Judy Strobel	Forsyth, MT
June 23-26	Ph. 4 Round Dance Clinic	Larry & Susan Sperry	Lolo, MT
June 23-26	Nat'l Square Dance Convention	All Callers/Cuers	Loveland,CO
July 9-11	Plus on the Boulder	Lynn & Judy Strobel, Larry & Susan Sperry	Big Timber, MT
August 12-14	Lolo Stomp Plus Weekend	Lynn & Judy Strobel	Lolo, MT
September 3-6	Knothead Jamboree		West Yellowstone, MT

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.