

GRAPEVINE

Volume 136

Yellowstone Square Dance Council

March 2026

If you can only attend one "away" dance... Make It The State Festival!

This year's State Square and Round Dance Festival, held in Helena on Memorial Day weekend, will feature California caller Andy Allemao with Rounds by our own Larry and Susan Sperry. We already know Larry and Susan will make sure the dancing is top level; and speaking from personal experience, the same goes for Andy.

The Helena dancers always put on a great Festival and this one promises to continue the tradition. Some of the things up their sleeves are a dance in the Capitol building and a short ride on the tour bus. There are also a couple of badge dances on the schedule. What's a badge dance? Come and find out!

The State Festivals are hosted each year by a different Montana square dance community. Those dancers spend considerable time and effort to create a fun weekend. They deserve support from the rest of us for their efforts. There are brochures at the Billings club dances which include registration forms. So grab one, fill in the blanks and get registered. Let's attend in force and show the host dancers that Billings appreciates them!

55th Annual Montana State Square & Round Dance

May 22, 23, 24, 25, 2026



"Fluffy Skirts & Cowboy Boots"
What a Capital Idea

Andy Allemao



and

Larry & Susan Sperry



Helena Valley
Community Center
3553 Tizer Drive
Helena, MT

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



*A little background as printed in the May, 1986
"Grapevine." A lot has changed since 1972!*

A Brief History of the Montana State Square and Round Dance Convention

The first convention began in Butte in 1972 at the old Columbia Gardens Park. Prior to that, there were, for a number of years, annual dances around the state that were combined with the meetings of the Montana Square and Round Dance Federation. The federation was made up of representatives from a number of areas around the state. This never really developed into a state convention but was combined with dances already scheduled in the various areas using the local or visiting state callers. In the mid 1960's even this was discontinued.

A Montana Convention idea was discussed by a group of interested dancers and state callers at a Knothead Jamboree in Yellowstone in the fall of 1971. Here, under the leadership of Ted Falacy from Missoula, five other interested callers and dancers each contributed \$20 to a convention fund. With that money Ted obtained the use of the Columbia Gardens Park for Memorial Day weekend for the first Montana State Square and Round Dance Convention.

The dance pavilion was unheated and quite open to the cool nighttime breezes. Saturday night snow fell low on the mountains surrounding Butte. A callers clinic was held on the sunny side of the pavilion Sunday morning. The dance cost was \$4 for all sessions. A small apparel shop was available for the dancers.

The dance was a success and it was here that a state convention committee was formed with the Butte dancers volunteering to undertake the second convention. From this point on the state conventions were a reality with nationally known callers at each one.

Even though the conventions were held on Memorial Day weekends, nearly half of them were cooled by late spring storms that brought heavy snow in the mountains and a few times even into the area of the conventions. There were several times when high water gave travel problems.

COMING ATTRACTION

68th Annual Magic City Hoedown



Saturday, May 2 • First Presbyterian
Calling by Butch Suttley • Rounds by Larry & Susan Sperry
Details at squaredancemontana.com



Checkerboard Squares

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

Is it March already? Time is flying, so we must be having fun. Of course we are, we're square dancing! Our beginners, Joan and Kate are coming along nicely. Their attendance is exceptional, especially considering the distance they come each week to dance with us. They've only missed a few weeks when life pushed its way into their dance calendars. They're a joy to dance with and we appreciate their commitment!

We're grateful to all our dancers who come so faithfully. We know everyone's lives are busy and we thank you for making us a part of those lives every week. And remember, practice makes perfect! Well, maybe not. We all get spectacularly confused now and then! But the more you dance, the better you dance, and soon you're ready for more. Be sure to read the Plus Group column for more on that subject.

We're happy to see newer Checkerboard dancers well represented at the Fourth Saturday Frolic. Hunter has his ways of making the familiar new again when he leads us to look at calls from a whole different perspective. It's always nice to be reminded that any level of square dancing can be interesting, challenging and sometimes confusing, but always fun.

Please note that **we won't be dancing on March 12** due to no caller being available.



Silhouettes

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

Hello All

We are busy in Arizona with 8 sessions a week. We miss all of you! We return in early April. Our first class at Casa Village will be Monday April 6 at 7 pm and Tuesday nights at Casa Village start April 7 at 7:15 pm We look forward to see you all again.

Tuesday nights will be reviews of our current dances from 7:15-7:30. At 7:30 will start a new rhythm and beginners with no previous experience are welcome to join us.

Larry and Susan Sperry

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

We'll definitely be spoiled this month with two callers! Lynn will be here for the March 14 Plus dance and again March 28 for the Spring Dance. On the 7th and 21st Hunter will put us through our paces. Hunter, we look forward to your dances. Lynn and Judy, enjoy your well-deserved time off and reduced highway hours!

As you've probably heard by now, there has been some restructuring of calls between Mainstream, Plus and Advanced square dance levels. Some current Mainstream calls will move up to Plus, some current Advanced calls will move down to Plus and so forth. This means current Plus dancers will be learning some new calls, and Plus beginners will be ahead of the game because they already know the stuff that used to be Mainstream.

Since there will be a learning process for the Plus dancers anyway, Lynn will be offering Plus lessons this fall. If you've been dancing Mainstream for several years and are **very solid** in the Mainstream calls, you should be ready for Plus.

Watch for notifications this fall regarding Plus lessons, then come and see if it's for you. In the meantime, dance, dance, dance! The more you dance, the more confident you feel, the more natural your reactions to the calls will be and the more prepared you'll be to learn even more.

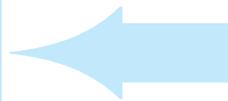
Don't miss this one! Come to the workshop in the afternoon and find out what crazy thing Lynn has cooked up for us this time. Then put on your fancy stuff (or not, your choice), dance the night away, and maybe show off the crazy thing Lynn taught us in the workshop. The Spring Dance is always one to remember!

SPRING DANCE

Saturday, March 28, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
13th Street West and Poly Drive • Billings, MT
Lynn Strobel, Caller

2-4 p.m. Mainstream Workshop
Workshop is for all Mainstream and Plus Level dancers
6:30-7:00 Plus Dance
7:00-9:00 Mainstream Dance

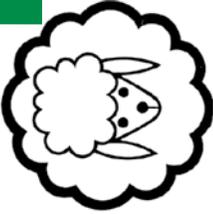
Afternoon Workshop \$10/person
Evening Dance \$10/person
Package (Both Sessions)
\$15/person
Sponsored by
Saturday Night Plus



March

2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Silhouettes 7-9 pm First Presbyterian (Hunter)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Plus Dancing (Hunter) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian</p>
<p>8</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>Silhouettes 7-9 pm First Presbyterian (Hunter)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>NO DANCE No Caller Available</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian</p>
<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Silhouettes 7-9 pm First Presbyterian (Hunter)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>HAPPY ST. PADDY'S DAY!</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Plus Dancing (Hunter) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Silhouettes 7-9 pm First Presbyterian (Hunter)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Silhouettes 7-9 pm First Presbyterian (Hunter)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian</p>	<p>27</p> <p>SPRING DANCE! First Presbyterian See page 2 for more information.</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Checkerboard Squares Beginners/ Mainstream 7-9 pm First Presbyterian</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Plus Dancing (Hunter) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian</p>

Yellowstone Square Dance Council Grapevine YSDC Executive Committee 2025-2026

March 2026

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 & Wvette Hogemark	406-690-3363	bhogemark@pcsd5.org	
Caller Hunter Keller	406-690-2640	Hunter@HunterKeller.com	hunterkeller.com
Cuer Larry & Susan Sperry	406-670-3210	sperryscuc@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
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
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
April 25	7-9 p.m.	Fourth Saturday Frolic*	Hunter Keller	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
August 6-8	USA West	All Callers/Cuers	Cedar City, Utah
September 4-7	Knothead Jamboree	Andy Allemao	West Yellowstone, 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.**