

GRAPEVINE

Volume 127

Yellowstone Square Dance Council

February 2025

Yellowstone Square Dance Council News

The Yellowstone Square Dance Council met on January 11 at 5 p.m. Among the items discussed were insurance, upcoming special dances and returning to the use of cards to ensure that squares mix and mingle.

It was reported that we received a compliment from Pastor Dave to the effect that they can hardly tell that our dancers have been in the facility. They appreciate that we're careful to leave the place the way we found it.

We were reminded to publicize and encourage dancers to attend the numerous special spring and summer dances in Billings, in Montana and beyond.

According to the Bylaws of the YSDC, officers will serve two-year terms. That means this year is election year. Thought you were done with that, huh? You'll find descriptions of the offices below. The elections will be held at the next YSDC meeting, date yet to be determined. The description of the duties of the elected officers follows:

PRESIDENT - shall preside at all meetings of YSDC and have in mind at all times the best interest of YSDC. The President shall call special meetings at the request of two thirds of the delegates. The President will automatically be an exofficio member of all committees.

VICE PRESIDENT - shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence.

SECRETARY - shall keep a record of all proceedings of YSDC, shall act as YSDC Correspondent in matters pertaining to the business of YSDC, and shall keep a correct enrollment of all member clubs

TREASURER shall receive and take care of all monies belonging to YSDC and shall disburse it at the order of YSDC. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate report of all receipts and expenditures. (*Editor's note: current treasurer Terry Drange gives a more detailed description of this office in "Help Wanted" on page 2 of this month's Grapevine.*)

The YSDC is directed to meet a minimum of three times per year (September through May). Unless a major event is upcoming, such as hosting a state festival or finding a new dance location, neither of which is anticipated to happen soon, there's rarely a reason to have more than three meetings.

Did you know that the Yellowstone Square Dance

Council is now 72 years old? If you like to make things happen, jump in and be part of the legacy. The only eligibility requirement is that you're a member of a club. As far as we're concerned, you're members now, and all of you new dancers will officially become full Checkerboard Squares members at the Beginners' Hoedown in May, so you're eligible, too. There are plenty of folks who've been there and done that and are ready to show you the ropes and help in any way you'd need.

There's No Such Thing As Too Soon

Join us for the "Buffalo Drive in 2025"
2025 MONTANA STATE SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FESTIVAL
MAY 23 - 26, 2025
Featured National Callers:
ADAM CHRISTMAN & HUNTER KELLER
Featured Cues:
LORRIE LANE
Sponsored by the Montana Mavericks
Register at mtfestival.dance
Look forward to
• Four Days of dancing!
• Amazing Harmonies!
• Workshops!
• Dry Camping Available Onsite!
(406) - 826-2874 130 Third Ave NW, Ronan, MT mtfestival.dance

Memorial Day weekend is closer than you think! That's the date of the State Festival. This year's hosting club, the Montana Mavericks, were extremely supportive of the State Festival we hosted last year in Billings and we'd sure like to return the favor. Keep in mind that the Ronan/Polson area is a popular spot in Montana, so the sooner the better is the rule for registration and arrangements for accommodations. We'll have a few brochures with registration forms available at our dances, or you can register online at mtfestival.dance. See you there!

LOOK!

Haven't been to a dance for a while? Had to miss a beginner class or two? Are there calls that just aren't sticking with you? Or do you just wish you could get a little more experience?

We all sometimes wish we could get in a little more practice. And while it's not the same as "real life," there are ways to do that online. On our website, squaredancemontana.com, there's a link

on the beginner page to Saddlebrooke Squares YouTube demonstrations. To see things from a different angle, google About Taminations - Tam Twirlers for animated birds-eye-view demonstrations of the calls. Both are very helpful. Hardest part is remembering the name of the calls you want to review!

Try them and see which works for you.

Help Wanted!

After a number of years as Insurance Chair, Terry Drange is ready to pass the torch. Terry has done a great job and we'll miss his expertise, but we're sure that anyone he trains will be very well prepared to take over.

There's some more information on the office of Treasurer included as well, since Terry has held both positions simultaneously. It's not a requirement that one person hold both jobs. Two people could be involved. But they're closely enough related that one person could combine them effectively.

Introduction to YSDC Insurance Chair and YSDC Treasurer

YSDC Insurance Chair

Keep the website current: www.usda.org (Programs/ Insurance Policy Renewal Portal)

Request a check from the Treasurer to pay for the USDA dancer insurance as needed.

The website: www.usda.org has all the information regarding insurance under "Programs."

Elizabeth Sanders is the USDA Insurance Coordinator, she is very knowledgeable and helpful.

Keep in contact with the club leaders as to the member status of the clubs.

Print Current Rosters and distribute to clubs and copy to the white 3 ring binder (Binder is with the AED device at 1st Presbyterian Church.

Insurance Chair Report to Council Meetings.

YSDC Treasurer

Keep current Excel list: "All YSDC Dancers and Clubs They Paid Membership At"

Receive and disburse Council monies. (Dues, Special Dances, Financial Obligations)

Keep Western Security Check Book in balance. (Council President and Vice President are also authorized signers)

File IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) by April 15 (IRS on line form)

File Annual Report with MT Secretary of State by April 15 (MT Sec. of State on line form)

Treasurers Report to Council Meetings.

Terry Drange, YSDC Insurance Chairman



Checkerboard Squares

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

We have a good solid core of beginner dancers who have been attending regularly and their dedication is paying off. This square dance stuff is definitely starting to click for them! Some have also been "shopping" the back table when we have square dance clothes to share, and everyone's looking forward to finishing the program and dancing all the open dances.

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

Two of the three Plus dances in January were cancelled due to weather and road conditions. We're certainly not starting the New Year the way we'd like! As a result, we don't have much news to report but we thought you'd like to read Lynn's Council Meeting report:

The Plus lessons went well with the equivalent of more than a full square of dancers new to the Plus Program. All of the movements have been introduced from the standard position and now we just need floor time to increase the comfort. My thanks to the experienced Plus Dancers for supporting the growth of this group. My thanks, also to Hunter and Bob for calling. They will each be calling some of the dances over the next two or three months.

As to the Spring Dance, it is advertised as a Mainstream dance so hope there are Mainstream dancers from Billings, and maybe other areas, who will be encouraged to attend, along with all of the Plus dancers that have been so faithful and supportive. The afternoon workshop will be at a level that Mainstream dancers can handle and just might include something a little different that will entertain the dancers with more experience. In the evening we will have a half hour (2 tips) of Plus Dancing (this will NOT be a workshop) and then the 2 hour Mainstream dance. Overall, nothing out of the ordinary; just an opportunity for some good square dancing.

We want to express our thanks for the great new dance venue and hope this can be a long term arrangement.

Lynn and Judy



Six couples danced at Edgewood Vista memory care facility on January 27. Thank you to all who made this happen: Hannah for arranging this, Bob for making the extra trip to town to call, the rest of the crew for dancing, and to Edgewood for welcoming us all.

2025

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
				Checkerboard Squares Mainstream 7:00-9:00 p.m. First Presbyterian		Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
			5	6	7	8
				Checkerboard Squares Mainstream 7:00-9:00 p.m. First Presbyterian		Plus Dancing (Hunter) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
			12	13	14	15
				Checkerboard Squares Mainstream 7:00-9:00 p.m. First Presbyterian	<i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	Plus Dancing (Bob) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
			19	20	21	22
				Checkerboard Squares Mainstream 7:00-9:00 p.m. First Presbyterian		4th Saturday Frolic (Hunter) Mainstream, 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian
			26	27	28	1
				Checkerboard Squares Mainstream 7:00-9:00 p.m. First Presbyterian		Plus Dancing (Lynn) 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian

Don't Miss This!
 You know how fast your calendar fills up.
 Save this spot now!

SPRING DANCE

Saturday, 2025

March 22, 2025

First Presbyterian Church • Billings, MT
 13th Street South and Poly Drive
 Lynn Strobel, Caller

2-4 p.m. Mainstream Workshop
 For all Mainstream and Plus Level dancers

6:30-7:00 Plus Dance

7:00-9:00 Mainstream Dance
 Afternoon Workshop \$5/person
 Evening Dance \$10/person

Sponsored by
 Saturday Night Plus



Yellowstone Square Dance Council Grapevine YSDC Executive Committee 2014-2015

January 2025

Office	Name	Phone	Email Address
President	Dave Nelson	652-5849	dnels@bresnan.net
Vice President	Suzette Fletcher		suzette.fletcher@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Terry Drange	855-1337	drangetn@gmail.com
Secretary	Pat Hastings		pathast@live.com

YSDC Standing Committee Chairpersons

Committee	Name	Phone	Email Address
Grapevine Editor	Ann Hindley	373-6959	achindley@gmail.com
Insurance	Terry Drange	855-1337	drangetn@gmail.com
Improvement Board	Hunter Keller	406-690-2640	Hunter@HunterKeller.com
	Lorraine Williams	698-8914	lorraine_ellen406@icloud.com

Callers and Cuers

Name	Phone	Email Address	Website
Caller Bob & Wyyette 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	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 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.

YSDC CLUBS WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Day	Time	Club	Location
Monday	7-9 p.m.	Silhouettes Round Dancing (Nov.-May dates determined by cuer)	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
Mar. 22, 2025	2-4, 6:30-9 pm	Spring Dance	Lynn Strobel	First Presbyterian, Billings
May 8	7-9 p.m.	Beginner Hoedown	Bob Hogemark	First Presbyterian, Billings
May 17	several, see flyer	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 by Hunter between tips.*

STATE, REGIONAL & NATIONAL DANCES

Date	Event	Featured Caller/Cuer	Location
May 23-26	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
July 17-19	Mainstream at Lolo	Lynn Strobel, Theresa Ray	Lolo, MT
August 7-9	Lolo Stomp Plus Weekend	Lynn & Judy Strobel	Lolo, MT
Aug. 29-Sept. 1	Knothead Jamboree	All Callers & Cuers	West Yellowstone, MT
Sept. 5-7	Buggy Stomp	J. Junck, D. Guille, L&S Sperry	Laramie, WY
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.squaredancemontana.com and/or caller websites
We'll also have flyers at the club dances at First Presbyterian. Check them for more details.**