

SQUARE TIME

Eastern Ontario Square

and

Round Dance Association



www.eosarda.ca



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Square Time Edition 69.3 October 2023

Material contained in Square Time is for the information, convenience and enjoyment of *the dancers*. *Presented information, and the views expressed, are not necessarily those of EOSARDA, its Directors / Officers or of the Square Time Editor. The Editor reserves the right to condense, omit or rewrite all or part of the material submitted. The decision to publish or withhold copy received after the deadline rests with the Editor. Other publications may reproduce material published in Square Time, provided credit for the source is given.*

This issue of Square Time will not be printed. It is available, free, online:

http://www.eodance.ca/square_time.php

Submissions to Square Time

We welcome letters, articles, advertisements and almost anything dance related. Each member club is encouraged to send us their news, and tell us about themselves. Separate text and pictures, please. Text is reformatted to present a uniform appearance and pictures have to be extracted. Please send them to SquareTimeEditor@eosarda.ca.

Next issue...

The next issue will be December 2023. Deadline for submission is November 30.

Advertising in Square Time

To advertise in Square Time, please send a file to the editor, indicating the size the advertisement is to be (full page, half page etc.) Other than to fit the space, advertisements will not be reformatted.

	Member	Non-Member	Commercial
Full Page	\$25	\$40	\$100
Half Page	\$20	\$30	\$75
Quarter Page	\$15	\$20	\$45
Full Column	\$20	\$35	\$75
Half Column	\$15	\$20	\$45

EOSARDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 – 2024

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Director	Wendy VanderMeulen	Chair Dance Committee

We are always looking for new directors to be on the board, so we would be delighted to have your help. We also have committee members who are not directors, but fill important rolls.

Message from the President

Help Wanted

Volunteer (noun)

Miriam Webster

“A person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service.”

Cambridge Dictionary

“A person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it.”

Oxford Dictionary

“A person who does a job without being paid for it.”

Whatever definition you use, there is no doubt that volunteers are an essential element in Square and Round Dancing.

Did your club run a Fall recruiting drive?	Volunteers did that.
Does your club have a web site?	Volunteers did that.
Is your club present on Social Media?	Volunteers did that.
Does your club have theme nights?	Volunteers do that.
Is your club run by an Executive Committee?	Volunteers do that.
Has your club run an Open Dance?	Volunteers do that.
Does your club have Angels?	Volunteers do that.

At all levels of the organization, from club level through your Regional Association, to the Ontario Federation and the Canadian Society, volunteers are the grease that keeps the wheels turning.

But we have a problem.

Across all levels of society, volunteers are becoming harder and harder to attract. Square and Round Dancing is no exception. Clubs are struggling to find people willing to serve on the Executive. Dance organizers are having difficulty finding people to plan, organize and run a dance. Needed jobs at all levels are going unfilled. For example, due to a lack of people willing to serve, many clubs are not represented on your regional Board of Directors. But if your club doesn't have a voice at the table, how can the Board know, much less address, your concerns?

Despite the many benefits it confers upon those who practice it, “Volunteerism” seems to be a declining institution . But, volunteering can:

- ◆ Provide a sense of purpose
- ◆ Provide a sense of community
- ◆ Help you meet new friends
- ◆ Increase your social skills
- ◆ Improve self-esteem
- ◆ Teach you valuable skills
- ◆ Bring fun into your life
- ◆ Help you be happier
- ◆ Get you out of your comfort zone

Thoughts to ponder:

- ◆ “Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” Muhammad Ali
- ◆ “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.” Elizabeth Andrew
- ◆ “Life’s most persistent & urgent question is, what are you doing for others?” Martin Luther King
- ◆ “As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands - one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” Audrey Hepburn
- ◆ “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Gandhi
- ◆ “I don’t find time to volunteer, I make time.” Me
- ◆ You don’t need to be a great dancer to help out (but if you are, you still can volunteer).
- ◆ You don’t need to have unlimited free time to help out, any contribution will be appreciated.
- ◆ You don’t need to know everything about how your club/association functions to be of service. You will quickly learn all that you really need to know.
- ◆ You don’t have to be a seasoned veteran to be of service. New dancers and experienced dancers will be accepted equally.

It isn’t hard to volunteer, just speak to any member of your club Executive, to any Caller or Cuer, to any member of EOSARDA’s Board of Directors or contact me. Whoever you speak to, just say that you would like to help out.

I guarantee you a favourable reception.

Dave Western

President

EOSARDA

Message from the Editor

We have ,with permission, re-published an article from the Atrabiliar magazine, 'Around the Square'. It talks about various strategies to avoid breakdowns in square dancing.

We have started a new series, 'How we got here', that will introduce various dancers from our area. They will tell the story of their entry into dancing and how it has affected their lives. We hope to publish ongoing articles in each issue. Dancers need to send me their 'how we got here' stories. As always, you can send articles to squaretimeeditor@eodance.ca. In this issue, we have two articles: one from Vince and Debbie from Mississippi Squares, as well as one from Arlo, who is the Secretary of the EOSARDA Board.

As the new chair of the Club Liaison Committee of EOSARDA, I want to stay connected to the local clubs. I want to make sure that folks know what help they can receive from our organization, and what else we could do. In this time of dwindling enrollment, we need to do all we can to attract more participants..

I also want to highlight our ongoing programs: dance dangle, new dancer celebrations, dance leader support and the celebrations of clubs and dancers major anniversaries and events. EOSARDA can help offset some of the expenses that a prospective dance leader may incur. I will be contacting the clubs to make sure these programs are understood. The 'dance dangle' program is repeated to encourage dancers to visit other clubs. See the article.

We want to get this publication read by more of our dancers. When we were printing copies, clubs would register how many copies their dancers wanted for a price. Now that we are not printing, dancers can download the latest and past copies from the EOSARDA web site. What would work best for you: a subscription email service where you would register your email? Some folks don't have email and we need to have a way for them to enjoy the information. I certainly encourage dancers to print and pass on copies. Do you prefer to have a method where you can read the magazine directly from our web site? Would you be willing to pay a subscription cost to have the magazine mailed to you? I am not making any promises here, I just want some feedback.

Gerry Johnson

Square Time Editor

In Memoria Anne Marie Roy, 83, Massena/Richville NY



Anne Marie Roy, 83, passed away surrounded by her family on Thursday, July 20, 2023 in Massena.

Anne was born on February 3, 1940, in Richville, the daughter of Albert and Jessie (Jenkins) Walker. She graduated from Gouverneur High School in 1958 and Watertown School of Commerce in 1959.

Anne retired from Community Bank in Gouverneur as a loan officer after 25 years of employment.

She had been a member of the United Church of Richville and enjoyed sewing, gardening, sailing, and traveling the country in the couple's RV.

She had lived in Richville for many years before moving to Massena. Anne married Ronald J. Roy on September 2, 1994, at Barnhart Marina in Massena. She was previously married to Kenneth Thayer.

Anne is survived by her husband, Ron; her children, Jeffrey Thayer and his spouse, Philippe Roques of Randolph, VT, Cassandra and Carlos Candelaria of Biscayne Park, FL; her stepchildren, Dan Roy of Auburndale, FL, Kristine Roy of Lancaster, NH, and Gabrielle Roy of Colebrook, NH. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Sam and Ariel Thayer, Emily Thayer and her companion, Andrew Langhans; her stepgrandchild, Crystal Dawson; her sister, Roxie Smith of Gastonia, NC, and several nieces and nephews.

Anne is predeceased by her parents, Albert and Jessie; her brothers, Donald Walker and Rodney Walker.

Memorial donations in memory of Anne are encouraged to the United Church of Richville or the Gouverneur Vol. Rescue Squad.

Anne was Ron Roy's wife, the caller from Skirts and Flirts. She often came to dance with Harbour Lites with Ron.



Your Publicity Committee, working with you to promote square, round and line dancing.

News & Views, Fall 2023

Remember the children's nursery rhyme "One, two buckle my shoe"? That's how many we have on the Publicity Committee: two! Can you imagine what we could accomplish with three or four? Contact publicity@eodance.ca if you have a bit of time, imagination, or a flair for technology. We could sure "pick up sticks" if we had six!



This photo appeared in the Glengarry News e-paper after the Field & Feast event held on August 5, 2023. The event helped raise funds for Maison Baldwin House in Alexandria and was a great opportunity to showcase square dancing. Carole Lauzon of the Glengarry Tartans approached the Publicity Committee to determine if we might be able to assist by providing dancers and information materials at the event. The Publicity Committee was able to identify dancers from other clubs who came to promote square dancing in the Alexandria/Cornwall area.

If you have an event that attracts lots of people that could serve as a venue to promote your club and raise awareness of square, round or line dancing, please reach out to your EOSARDA Publicity Committee! We can provide brochures, tables, people, dancers if needed.

Not long ago, the Publicity Committee sent an email to all club presidents and publicity contacts with suggestions of resources to help promote their club. For instance, artwork for a poster can be found at <https://squaredancetech.com/artwork/> if ideas are needed, or at https://r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca/r5ccda_promotion.html. As well, promotional videos that can be customized with specific club contact information are located at <https://squaredancetech.com/promotional-videos/>. Let us know if these sites are useful.

The Publicity Committee recently provided the EOSARDA Board with our Work Plan for this year. It includes everything from organizing a large regional promotional activity in the late summer (somewhere in the region – suggestions?) to looking into partnering with local community colleges to offer square dancing as an "interest" course, using our customized video for promotional events, trying to establish a committed EOSARDA demo dance group, working with the Technology Committee to enhance our New Dancer page and providing clubs with promotional materials or ideas. In addition to our list, we welcome your suggestions and comments. Contact us at publicity@eoDance.ca.

As you can see, we have a lot to do, and only two of us to tackle our To Do List! We could use your help! It's not all work; we get to dance as well!



Gloria & Lamar

CONSIDER THIS “RECRUITING” APPROACH

Donna Plume, President of Harbour Lites, shared her new “recruiting” effort with the EOSARDA Publicity Committee so we are sharing it with you. Maybe it is something you can work on for January or next September.

On behalf of Harbour Lites, Donna was looking for a way to attract younger dancers, something we would all like to do. She was aware that all high school graduates in Ontario require 40 hours of community service and she figured that maybe she could attract young people by offering them community service hours that involved square dancing. She began by researching what type of activity would qualify as community service hours and then touched on as many of those points as possible when submitting her proposal to the local high school. She had to get approval from the high school before being able to advertise the opportunity to students.

Students would be asked to help with set up and take down, would be required to attend every week and to actually dance (learn the Basic program) as a way of supporting a “seniors” organization. But by being required to dance for community service hours, the hope is they would have fun and get hooked and come back, maybe with friends, to the next session.

Harbour Lites created a “youth-focused” flyer to entice students to consider this community service option. The poster will be posted in the high school along with other community service opportunities.

To give this recruiting idea a try, each club would have to see what the approval process is in their own community and decide exactly what duties the students would need to perform. EOSARDA is recognized as a not-for-profit organization and that designation applies to all member clubs. This may be helpful in the application process.

Thanks to Harbour Lites for sharing this initiative. We encourage other clubs to share any ideas that they find work for their recruiting efforts.

Lamar and Gloria

EOSARDA Publicity Committee

Many thanks to the EOSARDA Publicity Committee & Wendy VanderMeulen
for showcasing Square Dancing
at the 3rd Annual Field & Feast event at Springfield Farm - Apple Hill.
Well over 140 local guests as well as guests from Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal
were in attendance for a fun filled evening!

EOSARDA's info pamphlet as well as open house flyers were distributed to all.
Carole Lauzon



EOSARDA Visit Dangle Program is Up and Running!

Great News!!!!!! We wanted to remind all dancers that the EOSARDA Visit Dangle Program is up and running! It is very encouraging to see so many Clubs back on the dance floor and hosting dances!

As a reminder, the best way for any dancer to become stronger is to dance more often, and visiting another club is a great way to do this!!!!

Overview

The EOSARDA Club Visit Dangle is intended to encourage visits to EOSARDA Member Dance Clubs and attendance at Open Dances. It is awarded, upon application, to any registered dancer who completes the specific number of visits during the course of a single dance year. (September 1 through August 31). For the purposes of qualifying for this dangle the term "visit" includes: • a visit to any EOSARDA Member club of which you are not a member, on its regular club night • attendance at any Open Dance hosted by an EOSARDA Member Club/ Association • attendance at any Open Dance hosted by EOSARDA



To obtain your dance dangle: • Complete the required number of visits during a single dance year (only one club night visit per club per year per applicant please) • Have the application form signed & dated as proof of your visit. • Submit completed form to the Dance Dangle Manager or to your Club President on or before September 30 of the next dance year.

Achievement Levels:

Silver Level: To earn a Silver Club Visit Dangle, a dancer must, during the course of a single dance year, undertake 5 "visits"

Gold Level: To earn a Gold Club Visit Dangle, a dancer must, during the course of a single dance year, undertake 8 "visits"

NOTE: The Skirts 'n Flirts Dance Club of Canton, New York, a former member of the Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association still qualifies to participate in this program. Thus, visits to or from Skirts 'n Flirts are eligible to be included on the application form.

If you have not participated in this program for this dance year, there is still time! You can print out your form and plan to visit other clubs/dances before the end of August.



EOSARDA Club Visit Dangle - Application Form



Dance Year 20__/20__

The EOSARDA Club Visit Dangle Program is intended to encourage member dancer visits to EOSARDA Clubs and attendance at Open Dances.

For member visits during a single Dance Year: beginning September 1 and ending August 31 awards are presented for:

- Visiting any EOSARDA member Club of which you are not a member, on its regular dance night. (Only one such visit per year per applicant please).
- Attendance at any Open Dance hosted by EOSARDA or by EOSARDA together with a Member Club or Association.
- All visits must be made between Sep 01 and Aug 31 in a single dance year, i.e. that consecutive 12 month period.
- Achievement Levels: SILVER*: Dancer has made five (5) such visits.
 GOLD**: Dancer has made eight (8) such visits.

Completed form(s) must be sent to EOSARDA on or before September 30 of the next dance year. Submission can be made through the [Dance Dangle Manager](#) or your Club President. In addition, Michelle Gravelle & Sander Rosen (non-board members of the EOSARDA Liaison Committee) will accept forms on your behalf at their home address: 25-710 Coronation Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1G 4G7. Questions/Suggestions can also be directed to them by email at mgraveln628@rogers.com, or phone at 613-698-0888.

Please Print

Name: _____ Club: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Visit	Name of Club/Dance Visited	Visit Date	Signature of Caller/Executive
1			
2			
3			
4			
5*			
6			
7			
8**			

NOTE: The Skirts N Flirts Dance Club of Canton, New York, a former member of the Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association, still qualifies to participate in this program. Thus, visits to or from Skirts N Flirts are eligible to be included on the application form. If a dance has already taken place and this form has not yet been available, we operate on the honor system for dates in arrears.

Revised: February 2023

SQUARE RECOVERY by Tim Marriner

(Tim passed away a few years ago, but has left a great legacy in the enjoyment he gave dancers and the many articles he wrote for callers)

New dancers often question how callers keep track of everyone on the dance floor while calling. Describing what happens from the vantage point of a caller, an analogy to a flock of birds or a school of fish is the best description. They both follow the currents flowing effortlessly left and right. If one goes in a different direction it attracts an eye.

Callers usually see the flow of the entire room and when someone goes awry it is



noticeable. The trick is evaluating what action needs to be taken to maintain the square. Square recovery is really a two-way street; dancers need to figure things out to keep dancing, and callers need to be aware of issues on the floor to determine what actions need to be taken to assist dancers in repairing the square.

On the dancer side of the street, there are several steps that can be taken to help maintain the square. First and foremost, dancers need to take hands, wherever possible, with the dancers beside them.

Maintaining contact keeps the square small and allows formations to become visible in order to apply the next dance action. That means dancers need to be looking up and forward as most dance actions happen in the line of

vision. If a dancer becomes confused or unsure of where they should go, one of the worst things they could do is stop listening to the caller.

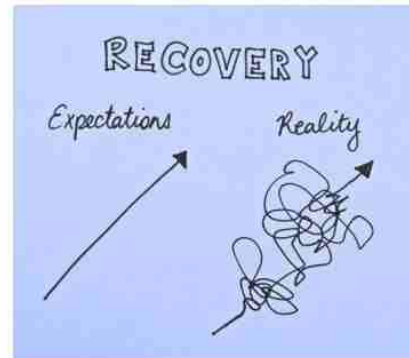
Usually if a caller is doing something strange, they apply extra verbiage to get the dancers through the tough combinations known as helper words. Dancers need to listen intently to these clues. Any distraction at this point could lead to a breakdown. The first instinct of a dancer when faced with unfamiliar calls or combinations is to look down trying to think their way through the material. This usually ends up with one missing the next call as the action of looking down prohibits the ability to see things transform right in front of them.

Keeping hands in the ready dance position helps others ability to lead without pulling, pushing, or physically turning one in the proper direction or possibly walking past the end point of the action. If a dancer is turned around, others can provide direction by pointing or gesturing the dancer to change their direction. Simply moving a free hand up and down can remind the ones next to you to take hold in order to maintain the formation.

Talking is disruptive, creating a bad habit of reacting to the verbiage within the square rather than listening to the caller, often prohibiting others nearby from hearing the next calls

Newer dancers need to be aware their reaction time usually is not as fast as others, so a loose hand hold is necessary in order to quickly let go to apply the necessary hand work for the actions. More experienced dancers should not over anticipate actions nor move too fast past less proficient dancers before they have determined what to do. Nobody should take short cuts nor add extra flourishes to calls as this can add to further confusion for newer dancers.

Another good habit is moving to the beat of the music which is the beauty of the dance. Square dancing is not a race nor is it a walk. Small gliding dance strides are much preferred over a full walking gate. Little bitty steps make little bitty mistakes. If one is unsure, don't stop; move forward with smaller steps extending a right hand observing if someone is reaching out, then move to that spot.



Usually the square should have symmetry; lost dancers should find the balance and fill in the missing space. If a dancer becomes lost, they should also look within the square to assure everyone has somebody. They should also observe other squares to figure a way for the sets to look like the others. These are all ways to check for correctness. Dancers can also track their opposite dancer to mimic what they are dancing on one's side of the set. In this same regard, there are dancers in a nearby set that should be dancing exactly what is being danced on the entire floor.

Dancers can track where they should be relative to their own square by observing another set.

It takes the teamwork of all eight dancers in a square to keep moving sometimes.

Occasionally, one couple is out of position. Dancers need to be familiar with the normal couple arrangement, apply that to the rest of the square to keep dancing. Sometimes two couples are out of position resulting in the set not looking uniform to the rest of the room or to the rest of the square. Often a quick couple rotation is all that is needed to continue the dance. If at the end of the sequence couples and/or partners are out of position, dancers should let go if necessary and repair to a squared set at home as quickly as possible.

If all things break down, dancers should not mill around or stand still looking at what is going on. Rather, they should find their way back to their original home spot as quickly as possible to prepare to make lines at the sides of the hall or be ready for the start of the next sequence as the caller works the floor. Talking or standing still looking for an answer usually prohibits the square from dancing even the next sequence.

Dancers need to keep smiling, as nobody is perfect. All dancers have lapse of memory or get distracted from time to time. Shake it off. Dancers should not waste time trying to figure out who went wrong. Let it go and focus attention on the next sequence. As mentioned before, **square recovery is a two-way street between dancers and callers.**

Dancers need to know how to help without hindering others, and callers need to observe what is necessary to allow a repair to happen or call actions that will neutralize the possible breakdown.

Callers first should instill all the above good habits upon new dancers and remind current dancers as necessary to aid in their ability to keep dancing. Proper training usually leads to a better dancing experience.

Next, a caller needs to be able to view all of the dancers they are calling for. Staring at one square or helping one set does not mean the remaining dancers are having success. A good caller always surveys the dance floor while calling, searching for problems that may occur. Good caller judgment is vital to maintain a high success rate on the dance floor. There are ways a caller can improve dancer success by evaluating what is happening on the floor after an action is called, then adapting what to call next in order to provide better success for those having difficulty without hindering the other sets.

Helpful hints to sticky situations:

- If a caller notices, for example, one person out of position while calling, it would do the square a disservice by calling an action that requires all four couples as the whole set would probably breakdown. Instead, calls like Forward and Back, or Partner Trade, can sometimes reverse an individual into finding themselves.
- If one couple is out of formation, often a Bend the Line and/or Forward and Back can turn compromised dancers in the right direction.
- If one couple is looking out in lines, a caller could call "those looking out Partner Trade" to assist those caught looking the wrong direction.
- If one person is sashayed, facing lines can be asked to Pass Thru then have the Boys or Girls Fold or ask the Ends to Fold followed by a Slide Thru, centres Trade, and Bend the Line which can temporarily repair the problem in order for all to keep dancing.
- If, however, the square is not repaired upon completion of the sequence, at the very least the square is still moving. Dancers should then be reminded to return to their original home position. A comment like, "everybody sneak home" works very well.

When two couples are out of position, it does no good for the caller to use four couple material until the rest of the square can be repaired.

- Using lines as a reference point, a caller might continue to call two couple actions that could result in the out of position couples to realize they are out of position and do something to correct the problem.
- Flutter Wheel or Reverse Flutter Wheel along with Sweep $\frac{1}{4}$ to form lines can sometimes cause dancers to either correct themselves or perform the action wrong again to momentarily repair the situation. An old mantra exists that often refers to this situation as, "When in trouble, do it double!"
- Other factors can exist, such as one half of the square being in waves while the other is in two faced lines. A caller can use a gimmick like "if you can, Recycle, if not, Wheel and Deal," which can usually keep all squares moving.

Unintentionally, more than two of the same sex could wind up on the same side of the square. Actions equivalent to an Acey Deucey (ends circulate and centres trade) or

Quarter Thru (single hinge and the centres trade) can sometimes resolve the issue or various combinations of Boys Trade, Girls Trade, Boys Run, Partner Trade, and/or Bend the Line may also be necessary to split the same sexes in order for lines to be formed.

Be extra careful that what is necessary to help repair a set does not negatively affect remaining squares.

There are several other strange possibilities that dancers could find themselves arranged improperly. A creative caller can often figure quick ways of repairing the situations. A word of warning; don't sacrifice the whole floor by being over fixated on repairing one square. The remaining dancers paid to dance too. Callers need to use good judgment as to how much work that should be diverted when trying to assist a fumbling square.

Lastly, if a square totally breaks down:

A caller needs to shorten the sequence to resolve or get everyone into normal lines at the sides of the room announcing to everyone there are

“Lines at the Sides, all move Forward and Back.”

This is the squares cue to slide right to form lines to carry on with the dancing pattern. A caller should not ignore standing squares; it only discourages them. Callers should observe that set to determine if a weaker dancer is hindering or if there is a physical issue with a dancer in the square. Keeping the material straight forward can often regain confidence for the set to improve for the next sequences.

Sometimes it is necessary to mix the dancers, if possible, to another set by progressing them into other squares. Observing the possible scenarios of newer dancers or less proficient dancers gathered in the same set, a caller could also deliver calls that keep the less proficient dancers apart. If this is not an alternative, a caller can choose to simply shorten the patter portion of the tip.

Dancers are customers that need to be provided a quality fun filled entertaining dancing experience.



Constant breakdowns are embarrassing for dancers and frustrating for the rest of the square. Callers need to do what is best to limit this stress. Callers need to learn and develop the methods to keep squares moving without disrupting the flow of the floor. From a dancer's perspective this will look like a magic trick. The dancers will be baffled how they managed to get through the material unscathed despite their inability to keep up. As part of the entertainment, callers with high choreographic skills like to move dancers near the edge of a breakdown, sometimes even look over

the edge, only to pull them back at the last minute; saving the square with a surprise get out. This is an acquired art that can be learned through observation and lots of practice.

How we got here

stories from the lives of new dancers

This article was originally written in four parts on Facebook

Hello everyone! My name is Vince, and I work in Ottawa while enjoying life in Carleton Place. Around 2010, my dear wife Debbie asked me if we could try square dancing. She thought it could be a fun activity for us to do together. There was a square dance event in Beckwith on Tuesday nights, and they offered two free nights in September to start the season. While I hadn't danced much before and didn't consider myself a great dancer by any means, I always wished I could dance better. The times I did dance, I found joy in it, especially at weddings or company events.

We decided to give square dancing a try as a way to meet new people in our community and get our bodies moving. I remembered how dancing always brought a smile to my face. So, on a Tuesday night, we arrived at the hall around 7:20 PM, just in time for the 7:30 PM start. As we entered, several people approached us and introduced themselves, including one person I had worked with in the past.

At the front of the hall stood Brian Crawford, who introduced himself as our caller for the evening. He reassured us that this dance was for everyone. Before I knew it, other dancers pulled us into a square formation. Brian began explaining the basics of modern square dancing, including what a square was and how the dance would unfold. He taught us a couple of dance moves, starting with moving up to the middle of the square and back again. We learned the Do-Si-Do and Allemande Left. Our square broke down a few times as these moves were new to me, but each time, hands reached out to help and bring us back together. I hadn't laughed like that in a long time. The dancers were fantastic, and that was one of the reasons I wanted to come back.

Contrary to my previous assumption, people weren't wearing western shirts and skirts. Between the dance sequences (known as tips), there would be 5 to 6 minutes of chatter and socializing. It was during these moments that I got to know the people in the group. This square dancing community is just as much about the social connections as it is about the dancing itself. A special bond formed among us new dancers (newbies), which still exists today.

We continued attending every Tuesday, learning 3 to 4 new dance moves each week. Before I knew it, I found myself contorting, weaving, turning, and swinging on the dance floor. Though we still broke down frequently, it only added to the fun and laughter. The caller, Brian, alternated between new dancers and experienced ones, providing me with much-needed breaks as dancing can be quite the workout (though my endurance gradually improved, and I can now dance for hours).

I cherished the opportunity to watch the experienced dancers gracefully glide across the floor without any hiccups. The feeling of completing a square without breaking down was incredible, especially when Debbie and I achieved it together. We felt a sense of accomplishment. There was one Tuesday we missed, and boy, did we have to work hard to catch up. But with the support of the group, we managed to do so. Committing to attending all the dances is crucial when starting out, as it ensures you learn all the moves.

We danced from September to January, learning half of the basic moves. Then came the Christmas dance, which was a blast. The second season spanned from January to April, and in April, we graduated as new dancers. We received permanent name badges and had to perform for the group as part of our initiation. They paraded us around and our group wrote a song and sang it. Then we had the summer off.

Here is more on what basic level is

In square dancing, the basic level refers to the foundational or entry-level of square dance movements and calls. It is the starting point for beginners who are new to square dancing. The basic level typically includes a limited set of calls and movements that are relatively simple and easy to learn. These basic movements serve as the building blocks for more advanced square dance levels.

At the basic level, dancers typically learn and practice movements such as do-si-do, allemande left, promenade, swing, and right and left grand. These movements are commonly used in various square dance routines and are essential for developing a solid foundation in square dancing.

As dancers progress beyond the basic level, they move on to higher levels that introduce more complex movements and calls, requiring greater skill and coordination. These higher levels include mainstream, plus, advanced, challenge, and beyond, each adding new calls and movements to the dancer's repertoire.

It's important to note that the specific calls and movements included in the basic level may vary slightly depending on the square dance program or organization being followed. However, the basic level universally focuses on introducing dancers to fundamental square dance movements and building their confidence and proficiency on the dance floor.

Mississippi Squares does not dance during the summer, so we had the summer off. But they did have a summer dance party at Bill and Shea's farm where we all got together. In the afternoon, there was a meal, and then there was a barn dance. I had never been to a barn dance before, so this was fun. When September came around, we started dancing again and met new people who wanted to give square dancing a try. For the first two weeks, they encouraged newcomers to attend for free. Just like when we started, Brian would get everyone up and start dancing from the beginning. It was fun to watch, and it felt like just a year ago we were the new dancers.

About half of the newcomers who came out stayed for the rest of the season and signed up. During the night, Brian would start by teaching new dancers 3 or 4 new dance steps. Then he would call up experienced basic dancers to perform a dance. Debbie and I danced the Basic teach, the Basic experienced, and then it was time to move on to the mainstream teach. Brian would teach us several new calls each night, mixed in with the basic ones we already knew. We still broke down occasionally and laughed all the while. My endurance was starting to build, allowing me to dance more of the tips throughout the evening.

The previous year, when we were in the basic level, we attended one dance called the Halfway Dance, organized by our club. We helped set up, and we were only able to dance at the basic level. They called it the halfway dance because it took place in January, marking the halfway point of the new basic teach program. The dance was held in the Catholic high school in Carleton Place, with several gyms set up for dancing. They had sections for basic, full basic, round dancing, mainstream

teach, full mainstream, plus, and even a couple of challenge dances.

During our dances, there were times when Brian, our regular caller, was not able to make it, and a new caller would fill in. We had guest callers like Geoff or Graham. It was a different experience as we adjusted to their style and sequence of calls. It threw us for a loop as we had to get used to the different caller's style and sequence of calls. To adapt and experience different callers, we started dropping into other clubs to dance with them. We went to the Dynamite Tay Dancers in Perth, a small club that was delighted to see us. Their caller Andy helped us a lot and would dance in the square as he was calling it. There must be something in the water that square dancers drink because they are so friendly. We also went to Orleans to dance with the Village Squares and caller Paul Adams. We encountered people we knew, such as Ron and Rose, who were our neighbors' parents. Paul would tell jokes, and we had a great time dancing with them.

We were becoming more comfortable with dancing and attended other area dances hosted by different clubs. We went to Harbour Lites and met even more people who enjoyed dancing. It was such a cool and fun experience. We were thrilled when we could complete a dance without making any mistakes. Of course, when we did make mistakes, we all broke down laughing and regrouped.

The journey of learning Basic and Mainstream levels took a couple of years, with a break in between due to work commitments. With each season we danced, our friendships within the square dancing community grew stronger. I always enjoyed sitting and talking to Gunther, discussing his experience in flying planes. Our caller, Brian, has a great sense of humor and often makes us laugh with his funny remarks. He and Amy are an essential part of the evening.

Now, I can confidently say that I love to dance.

Before the Square dance season began, we had a blast at a pool party hosted by Bob and Alice, uniting all the square dancers from our club. Burgers sizzled on the grill as we brought salads and desserts to share. Picture this - square dancing in the pool! Laughter filled the air, making it a hilarious and memorable experience.

With the arrival of Plus dancing, our weeknights were now double the fun - Tuesdays and Fridays. While Plus presented a challenge compared to Basic and Mainstream, we managed and even sought help from YouTube videos by Cyberpoint before Friday nights to sharpen our skills.

To expand our horizons, Debbie and I visited The Kanata club on Thursdays a few times. Although it took a couple of years, we grew comfortable with Plus dancing on Fridays. We even had a special opportunity to participate in the Maple Fest in Perth, where we performed a demo dance as part of the festivities. Dancing in the rain didn't dampen our spirits - it was a great time indeed!

Club-sponsored dances added more excitement to our journey, with themed events like Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's, and St. Patrick's Day dances. Occasionally, May workshops allowed us to review and improve our mainstream dancing.

On Thursdays, I played guitar at the Stittsville legion, and one night, there was a suggestion to move the jam to Tuesday nights. However, I couldn't make Tuesdays because of square dancing. A couple in the group heard about square dancing and became intrigued. They joined us for the two free nights in September, and their enthusiasm led them to become regular dancers as well.

Over the years, we mastered all three levels - Basic, Mainstream and Plus - with confidence and joy. Square dancing has truly become an integral part of our lives, and we cherish every moment on the dance floor.

Square dancing became a cherished part of our lives, and we can confidently dance at all three levels - Basic, Mainstream, and Plus.

Debbie and I have been dancing for years and had the honor of becoming part of the Executive at Mississippi Squares. As the Vice President couple, we wanted to contribute to the club's success, run entirely by dedicated volunteers since its inception in 1986.

Being part of the Executive meant organizing events like the Halfway Dance, where dancers from all over Eastern Ontario joined us for a night of fun and laughter. We set up three halls — for Basic, Mainstream and Plus dancing, alongside exciting round dancing sessions.

To support our members and reach new audiences, I learned to create a website, www.mississippisquares.ca, and designed eye-catching flyers using PowerPoint. We were thrilled to celebrate the graduation of new dancers as they completed the Basic level, receiving permanent name badges and performing for the group.

But then, in early 2020, a snowstorm forced us to cancel our Halfway Dance, and soon after, Covid hit, putting a pause on our dancing for two years. Determined to keep the club together, I regularly communicated with members, celebrating birthdays, and fostering a sense of community during challenging times.

Throughout the pandemic, the Executive met monthly via Zoom, planning safety measures for our eventual return, including masks, vaccinations, hand sanitizers, and hall monitoring. In September 2022, we cautiously resumed dancing and were heartened by the turnout.

As we move forward, we are focused on recruiting new dancers, as they are the lifeblood of our club. In August, we'll be posting flyers inviting people to join us for free introductory nights in September. We believe our Eastern Ontario community has something special to offer, and we encourage everyone to give it a try. This season will not require masks to be worn.

Mississippi Squares is a hidden gem in the Ottawa Valley, and we're excited about the future. For me, I'm even considering trying my hand at calling in a couple of years.

The journey of square dancing has brought us joy, laughter, and cherished friendships. It's more than just dancing; it's a close-knit community that welcomes everyone with open arms. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or completely new to the world of square dancing, we invite you to join us for an unforgettable experience.

Discover the fun of Modern Square Dancing and the camaraderie of the Mississippi Squares family. Embrace the rhythm, meet new friends, and create lasting memories. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to enrich your life through the joy of dance.

Join us on this incredible square dance journey!"**

Vince and Debbie Guthro

How we got here

stories from the lives of new dancers

Dancer Bio, Arlo Speer

Secretary, EOSARDA

Secretary, Capital Carousels

Secretary, Swing into Spring

Director, Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation



Arlo is a Western Canadian farm boy. He was born (way back in the last millennium) in Biggar, Saskatchewan (yes, that Biggar).

He spent a few months in Biggar, then convinced his parents to move to the lower mainland of B.C. and by the age of 10 had moved again to Central Alberta. As an early teenager, he attended local country dances, one of which added a bit of square dancing led by an individual who had mastered a few singing calls. The routines were taught and practised so each dance could include three or four square dances with singing calls.

When Arlo started college in Red Deer, Alberta he joined a teen square dance club – the Twirling Teens. That club provided a more usual dance experience – patter to practice figures, singing calls to perfect the dancing skills, and a few round dances added in for good measure. A year later, he moved to Calgary and continued to dance with clubs there. In both Red Deer and Calgary, Arlo tried his hand at calling, discovering that while walking dancers through the routines was fairly straight forward doing singing calls required ... well ... singing – something that wasn't exactly in Arlo's skill set. Finally, the penny dropped and he focused his time dancing rather than trying to call.

In the fall of 1966, Arlo attended a dance sponsored by the Calgary and District Square and Round Dance Association. Not only was the dance fun, but Arlo met Maureen ... and they've been dancing together ever since!

In Calgary, Arlo discovered a round dance group – back in the days when cues were a teaching strategy used to get dancers to the point of having memorized the routines. *Pearly Shells*, *Dancing Shadows*, *Tango Manita* and other classics were part of the repertoire. It was great fun and round dancing began filling more time than square dancing.

Maureen and Arlo continued to dance until they completed university in Calgary and their careers took them to various locations in Alberta and British Columbia. Dancing took a back seat to other activities and to family. In 1986, they moved to Ottawa and a few years later (when their boys were older) returned to round dancing with Jean and Don Clingin of Take-A-Step Rounds. After a few years, they joined Rhapsody Rounds with Daphne and Don Pearson; a few years after that they joined Don and June Cowan at Harmony Rounds.

An introductory square dancing session with Wendy VanderMeulen attracted Maureen's and Arlo's attention and they joined the group as a way to remember the dancing they had done a number of years before. They continued dancing with Wendy in her mainstream programme. They even registered for Don Moger's Summer Magic for the coming summer. However, that was the year that Summer Magic eliminated its mainstream programme, making plus the entry level for the event. Again,

Wendy came to the rescue with a summer session teaching plus level dancing. Maureen and Arlo completed Wendy's plus session on a Wednesday afternoon and, on Thursday, headed off to Cornwall for the plus hall at Summer Magic. They split the weekend between dancing plus and rounds.

In addition to round dancing, for a few years Maureen and Arlo continued dancing mainstream and plus in Ottawa, joining Paul and Judy Adams at PJs. They have since reverted to round dancing. They also travel for dancing, having visited a number of Ontario and US locations. The Western Ontario Weekend (WOW) in London, Ontario (a round dance weekend organized by Bob and Betty Beck and Jerry and Bonnie Callen) was a regular event. They also participated in Canadian Square and Round Dance Conventions in Ottawa and London. Maureen and Arlo have also travelled to locations in the northeastern US for events like the Tumbling Leaves Festival in Bennington, Vermont and the Star Spangled Festival as well as conventions of the International Choreographed Ballroom Dance Association.

Arlo and Maureen are charter members of Capital Carousels round dance club in Ottawa where Arlo currently serves as its secretary. With Capital Carousels, Arlo assisted with a number of Capital Caper and Summer Caper weekends, over the years featuring Steve and Irene Bradt, Wayne and Barbara Blackford, as well as Ontario based cuers. He also helped Capital Carousels organise and operate a RoundaLab MiniLab (with Irv and Betty Easterday) for potential round dance cuers and instructors. Arlo is also a member of the Swing into Spring organizing committee. He currently serves as Secretary for EOSARDA and as a director for the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation.

In his spare time when not dancing, Arlo serves as Sector Director for the Québec and Ottawa Valley Air Cadet League, National Governor for the Air Cadet League of Canada, and Secretary for the Webster Trophy Competition, an annual competition to identify "Canada's Top General Aviation Pilot" – a part of Canadian aviation history that has operated since 1932 (although Arlo hasn't been involved for quite that long)!

Maureen and Arlo are always happy to be dancing whether it's at a round dance club or on the social dance floor at a restaurant or lounge. They especially enjoy the dance floors on cruise ships when it's cold in Ottawa!

[Arlo Speer](#)

Caller's Corner

Information for all dancers!

Written by Geoff Clarke
Email: caller.geoff@bell.net



*FALL 2023
Welcome!*

An especially **big Welcome** to all the NEW DANCERS that have joined us this year for the first time! This is an exciting time for everyone, dancers & Callers alike as we greet new friends and meet 'old' friends and get our dancing legs back under us again!

Welcome back to all dancers returning again for another great year of dancing.

Welcome back to your regular **Club Callers** in the **EOSARDA** region! Yes, we're all back for another year, so again say a big hello to *John Charman; Dave Currie; Brian Crawford; Ron Gardner; Dave Hutchinson; Bob Summers; Wendy VanderMeulen; & yours truly.*

If you have any questions, your **Club Caller is the first to ask**. However, if you wish, you can also send your questions to me at: caller.geoff@bell.net

Any questions I get will be answered and those that would be of interest to all will be published in this column, with anonymity ensured unless you request otherwise.

Don't be shy to ask questions & have a great dance season!!

Geoff



WHAT THE CALLER SEES!

A message to all Experienced Dancers!

GRAND SQUARE SHOULD TAKE 32 STEPS (beats) TO COMPLETE!

Do you take the full 32 beats to do a Grand Square or do you cut corners or slide sideways going into the middle or Swing ½ way through?

We teach New Dancers to take a full 32 beats, to turn on each 4th beat and to 'reverse' at the 16th beat point in the pattern. So, no wonder they're somewhat 'confused' when some of these 'other' moves are introduced into their squares by experienced dancers! Is it part of the move? Did I miss something? Did my caller not teach it? ... They do ask!

PROMENADE - Don't cut it short!

Generally you have up to 16 beats (steps) of music to get from 'where you are' to 'home'. Let's say you're 2 steps past home when you hear 'Promenade', then you'll use 14 of the available 16 to get there - no problem! But, if you're 6 steps from home & stop there, then you're standing doing nothing for 10 more beats of music. ***What would you rather do, stand or dance?***

Now the 'general' rule of thumb is simply this - if you're 'more than half-way' (ie: 8 steps) from home, then Promenade home - if less, then 'keep going' - all the way around. There's one more caveat to consider, especially if your square has broken down since the last promenade and you 'may' not be in your normal position - If the #1 man stops at 'his home', then the rest of the square assumes whatever position you're now in - whether it's head or side!

Folks - Never Forget that "you were once a beginner too!"



ASK THE CALLER

As this is the first column in the new season AND, we have a bunch of 'new' dancers on hand, I remembered a question posed to me some time ago by a new dancer....

“How come I have to always rush - I just don't seem to have enough time to complete everything?”

*To our **NEWEST DANCERS**, here's some things to consider:-*

1. Square Dancing is a **LEARNED SKILL** that does require practise! Try & get out and dance **MORE THAN ONCE PER WEEK!** You will learn faster & become more 'comfortable' if you dance more than one night per week. Why not visit one of the other clubs in the area – you won't regret it!
2. Dance **IN TIME with the MUSIC!** That means move your feet 'in time' with the music & execute the moves 'in time' with the music. You'll be amazed how much easier it is!
3. **ASK YOUR CALLER** if you're not sure about something. That's what he/she is there for!
4. **RESPOND to the CALL** when you hear it! **BE LISTENING AT ALL TIMES** and if you're not hearing the calls properly, then get into a square at the FRONT of the hall!
5. **FINISH THE MOVE** you're doing before trying to execute the next! Callers will sometimes "stack" the calls a bit, so finish the move you're doing now before starting the next one.

6. **PROPER EXECUTION** of the moves means that you're "ON TIME" (in the right place at the right time) for the next call. ON TIME, means executing the move with the correct number of beats of music. For example:-
 - PROMENADES – keep them "tight" (Full Promenade is 16 beats)
 - DOSADO – keep it 'tight' – (Dosado = 6-8 beats max)
 - SWING – swing ONCE unless told otherwise (Swing = 6 beats)
 - KEEP SQUARES "tight" – don't let them "breathe" (expand) too much!
 - KEEP YOUR LINES 'close' together – 6 steps apart (3 fwd-touch-3 back = 8 beats)
7. **HELP YOURSELF** by *reviewing all the moves you've learned by going over them* (eg: *Taminations, etc.*). Especially after you've just learned a 'new' one! Looking them over 'in advance' is ok, but it may be confusing to you.

8. ABOVE ALL ELSE.... HAVE FUN!!

**AND TO EVERYONE OUT THERE,
REMEMBER TO SMILE, IT'S CONTAGIOUS!!**



Until next time....

Club News Grenville Gremlins Square Dance Club

On April 29th, the Gremlins did a Demo dance at Peavey Mart in Kemptville for their Customer Appreciation Day.

We danced inside as the weather was terrible, cold and rainy. We then travelled to Osgoode for their Porch Fest on June 10th. The weather was beautiful and fun was had by all.

Our Mobile sign on Highway 43, Facebook and the local paper were our main advertising. Of course, word of mouth is always great. The club held 2 open houses for new dancer's to come out and try square dancing. We had 10 out the first night and the second we had 6. We had registration on September 25th and a total of 5 new dancers signed up. Our club has declined in numbers and we had a total of 4 squares on the dance floor.

We are still in the planning stages to host an afternoon New Year's Eve dance (TO BE CONFIRMED) with a hot Buffet following the dance. Geoff Clarke will be the caller calling mainstream and plus.

We will be hosting our 50th+ anniversary dance April 13th, 2024 in the afternoon at the North Grenville Municipal Centre in Kemptville. We will be dancing basic through to plus with Geoff Clarke and Brian Crawford calling. We are looking forward to all clubs joining us in for this special occasion .

Keep dancing and have an enjoyable dance season.

Peter Matthew



LOCKITS Advanced Dance Club Geoff & Teena Clarke

September 2023

WE'RE BACK!! This is the start of our 15th season or so!

Geoff started calling A1 back in 2006 in his basement with a couple of squares of 'willing dancers' – some of which are still dancing with the club today!! We danced there for 2 years, learning A1 'together', and then registered as a 'formal' EOSARDA Club in the fall of 2008! The club name was selected by our original dancers and we "moved" from the basement into Brunton Hall in Black's Corners where we've been ever since! We started just dancing A1 and then added A2 in 2012.

Where have the years gone?? Wow!!



Square Time – September 2023



As we know, in March 2020, all dancing was suspended due to the pandemic. Eventually though we were able to return to dancing, but “under a strict set of protocols”. We ‘stuck with it’, ever hoping to ‘get back to normal’ quickly so we could enjoy dancing with all our friends again! YES, we all survived although a few tangled with the virus. What an experience!!

Fast forward to September 2023 and what’s going on at Lockits this year? Well, we had our ‘first dance’ this past week (Sept 20) and indications are that almost all of our dancers have returned from last year – which is great!! We’ve changed our dance program somewhat for this year, making our usual A2 dancing time that of an A2 Teach in order to bolster the numbers of our A2 dancers. This change has been very much accepted by all club members with a good number of our A1 dancers deciding to give A2 a go!! On our first dance back, we had 4+ squares on the floor AND, that included 4 “new” dancers joining us for the first time to learn A2!!

Welcome to the Lockits dance floor to:- Lamar Mason, Lee Warriner, Barbara McLellan & Gavin Currie – glad to have you dancing with us!!

Oh yes, we’ve also ‘tweaked’ our dancing times, now starting at 10am instead of 9:30am (for most weeks). Check our website for more information.

SO...Hey! - if you’re an Advanced Dancer and like to dance in the daytime, then come on out & have fun with us on Wednesday mornings – the A2 teach starts at 10am, followed by A1 from 11am to 12:30pm. Note that we take a “winter break” for all of March 2024 returning to dance through April!



You’re welcome to come & dance with us.
Check our website at : www.lockits.ca for all the details!

Square Dancing IS all about Fun & Friendship
So, come & join us, won’t you?

Square Time – September 2023

Club News Meri Squares

Meri Squares members are excited to be back on the dance floor! Our dance season started with two open houses to invite newcomers to give the Social Square Dancing (SSD) program a try. Our advertising in Meetup, local papers and neighbourhood posters attracted many dancers. While not everyone stayed, we have eight new members in the SSD program on Tuesday evenings. Under Wendy VanderMeulen's excellent teaching and the help of many "angels", the new members are having fun and learning quickly. We look forward to their graduation in December. Returning graduate SSD members, are enjoying serving as angels during the teaching and then having a chance to dance the full program every third tip and at the end of the evening.

Meri Squares Plus members have also returned. We are offering the full Plus program this year on Thursday evenings and experienced members are looking forward to a challenging program from our caller, John Charman. He promises to make sure we can all dance from any position so that the men have a chance to redeem themselves in the battle of the all men/all women squares!

The year began with an auspicious event. Meri Squares members and many others from across Eastern Ontario came together on September 14 to celebrate John Charman's 80th birthday! It was a great evening and we even managed to surprise John. We look forward to celebrating many more birthdays with John as he extends his over 50 years of calling.

All members are looking ahead to our special theme nights of Halloween and the fall bake and craft sale. The Meri Squares used clothing sale will be on November 21 before and during our SSD dance night at the J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Avenue. Looking for something special? There will be lots of choices for men and women, all for about \$5 an item. Everyone is welcome to come shop and dance!

Last but certainly not least, we invite dancers of all levels to come out to the **All Day Sashay** on December 2. Meri Squares and Ottawa Date Squares are jointly hosting a fabulous full day (nine dance sessions!) of workshops and dancing for all levels from SSD to Challenge. We have super callers with Dave Hutchinson, Wendy VanderMeulen, Brian Crawford, and Don Moger.

Register early at ottawadatesquares.ca/sashay. See you there!

John Charman's 80th Birthday Party Congratulations, John!





The Ottawa Date Squares have had a very successful dance season this past year.

As COVID was subsiding, we decided to embrace the new Social Square Dancing (SSD) program and started marketing to people who were tired of remote work and endless zoom sessions. We promised real in-person social interactions and new friendships; and people came out in droves!

After three very successful recruitment campaigns we graduated over 35 SSD dancers between July, 2022 and June, 2023. We went from dancing 1-2 squares each week to sometimes seeing 6 squares on the floor with an energy level that's almost electric.

Our dancers span age groups, gender identities and ethnic backgrounds making us one of the most diverse social groups in the Ottawa area.

Our almost exponential growth has allowed the Ottawa Date Squares to finally move beyond Plus and for the first time in over 25 years we've begun an A1 class on Wednesday evenings.

We're not resting on our laurels, though. There are still a lot of people out there who haven't yet discovered how much fun our activity is. Onward and upward!

Jean-Marc Robichaud, President
Ottawa Date Squares





A convention that was 25 years in the making

The Ottawa Date Squares club is a member of both the Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association (EOSARDA) and the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC).

This latter association hosts a yearly convention which brings together LGBTQ+ square dancers from around the world for a fun-filled weekend of dancing and friendship. This year's convention, the 40th one in fact, was hosted by the Ottawa Date Squares at the Westin convention centre and it featured a team of 11 internationally renowned callers, 50+ volunteers and eight large dance halls dedicated to every level of dancing from SSD all the way to C4!

There were tons of specialty tips (women's tip, mobility challenged tip, disco tip, etc) as well as sessions dedicated to other styles of dancing such as contra, line dancing and olde tyme square dancing. There was even a hugely attended and successful intro tip called by our very own Brian Crawford.

Also featured was a bus tour with over 250 dancers visiting several significant sites around the capital and squaring up for impromptu dance tips, flash-mob style.

The event was featured on [CTV Morning Live](#), [CBC Ottawa News](#) and [City News Ottawa](#) radio and brought together 700+ dancers to celebrate diversity in dance.

It has been hailed by many as the best IAGSDC convention ever held and the bar has been set very high for Durham, NC next summer.

Lots of amazing memories and friendships have been formed and we can't wait to get together for our yearly family reunion again.

Jean-Marc Robichaud

Club News Riverside Gypsy Squares

We hope that everyone has had a good summer! The Gypsies have been gathering to camp, swap stories, share some great food and of course DANCE!

We have gathered once a month from May until our last campout in September at the Lower Beverley Lake Campground in Delta. Delta is located about 30 minutes southeast of Smith Falls near Athens. The campground is Municipally owned and operated and offers both seasonal and transient sites. They can accommodate tents and RVs. They also have cottages and Bunkies that can be rented if you prefer a building to sleep in. There is a small beach, a fish cleaning station, boat launch, a playground and a small canteen.



We dance Friday nights and Saturday afternoons in the open air roofed pavilion within the campground. If there is another event taking place there, then we can be found in the hall at the Fairground a short distance from the park (under a 7 minute drive). The gate staff will give you directions if needed.

Our club may be slightly smaller in number but we still are enjoying a good time dancing, thanks to the calling and cueing of Bob Summers, and Kim Hamilton. Geoff Clarke called in September. Margaret Thomas keeps us moving as well with her “up tempo” line dances.

The organizing committees for this year made sure that there was a tasty treat each month. Breakfast in May, strawberries in June, hamburgers and salads in July, corn on the cob and hotdogs in August, plus we finished off in September with a potluck feast.

We have had quite a few guests come out to join us on the Saturday afternoon and there is always enough food to share after the dance. The change in dance time does mean that we don't have organized afternoon games or craft time but we do get together after supper around a roaring campfire when weather and lack of fire bans

permit. Chris Slater will often have a story to share and it is a good time to catch up with others and talk about events or travels that they have done.

As the weather cools and the dew falls a little heavier Gypsy Joe and the rest of the club will either prepare their rigs for storage or prepare to head to warmer climates until next Spring. I am sure that Gypsy Joe will spend some time planning some mischief or trick to play on us at our first camping weekend May 10-12th. I know that we have our campsite already booked and we hope that you will join us on the Saturday afternoon or perhaps the weekend to welcome back the warmer temperatures.

Gypsy Joe enjoying his June strawberry shortcake.

Until then, enjoy your dancing and maybe we will see you on a dance floor somewhere.



Mary Anne Reinhard Riverside Gypsy Squares C175

Russell Squares

Russell, ON

Wendy VanderMeulen

Russell Squares started dancing at the end of January this year. They were a “resurrection” of the Stonebridge Squares, although they voted to go by a different name this time around. The club started with 16 dancers. By the end of April, what with health issues and people moving away, we were down to 6 regular dancers.

It was run as an activity of the Russell 55+ Club, so we got the use of their hall at no cost on Tuesday afternoons. When we started back up in September, did a “push” at the 55+ Club in an effort build the Club. However, that effort did not attract any new dancers. So, due to small numbers of returning dancers, the club has cancelled its Tuesday afternoon dances. We are now planning to start up again in November on Friday nights. This time, the club will be open to anyone and not be restricted to 55+ Club members. I am planning an advertising blitz and am hoping for the best.

Also, we will start with a “Six-week introduction to Modern Square Dancing”. That will take us to the Christmas break and, depending on how that goes, we will start a new class in January or continue on with the people we have. A few of the dancers who danced this spring have indicated that they will be back in November, and one couple says that Fridays work better for them anyway... So, keeping fingers crossed that I’ll have better news to report for the next Square Time!

Square Dance Ottawa

J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave., Ottawa

4th Sunday of the month, 2:30 – 4:30

Wendy VanderMeulen

Square Dance Ottawa (SDO) danced through the summer with a regular contingent of dancers and new dancers every time. Our “Christmas in July” dance was followed by the “Dog Days of Summer” in August. Choosing music for the Christmas party was easy; for the Dog Days of Summer Well, not so easy! But finding music that had to do with heat (Fireball, Hot Stuff) or keeping cool (Daddy Cool, Beer in Mexico) did the trick. The highlight was “Who Let the Dogs Out?” ☺

As you know by now, SDO welcomes new dancers every month – the whole point of SDO is to introduce people to Modern Square Dancing, give them a fun couple hours of dancing, AND hope that they like it enough that they will join an EOSARDA club for weekly dancing. (I’m happy to say that 3 SDO dancers joined Meri Squares this fall, and 2 others have indicated that they will join in January when it suits their schedule better!) But it is also for those people who are not interested – or cannot – commit to a weekly dance but want to square dance. It’s been good to offer that option, and there have been a few people in that category who come to dance regularly, if not often.

We have two more dances this fall – October 22 and November 26. Remember, if you have people who missed joining your club for lessons this fall, send them (even better – TAKE them!) to SDO on those two afternoons to keep their interest up! They’ll also have a head start on lessons.

Square Dance Russell

Frank Kinnaird Community Centre

1084 Concession St., Russell, ON

2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Wendy VanderMeulen

Square Dance Russell (SDR) operates with the same idea as Square Dance Ottawa – no commitment, dance once a month just for fun, but if you end out liking it enough, join an EOSARDA club. So far, we have had 2 dances – March and April. The first dance of the fall (September) was a disappointment with only 4 dancers showing up – HOWEVER, THREE of them were dancers that had been to the March and April dances! ☺ So, I’m optimistic that the October dance will be better. Flyers have been posted, ads have been put into local community newspapers, and there will be an article in The Record, one of the local papers this week. Also, with Russell Squares not dancing in October, some of them have promised to come out that evening.... Fingers crossed that this venture becomes as successful as SDO has been!!

Club News Sunshine Squares Plus level

Canterbury Community Centre, Ottawa Wednesdays (7:30 – 9:30)

Our Club started our first dance on 13th September and the turnout was good with 2 squares. On the 2nd night, we almost had 3 squares.

However, our planning for the dance season was with twists and turns. Due to other commitments, Bob Summers only wanted to call every second Wednesday, and we had to explore different options including dancing every second night and looking for another caller during Bob's "off" nights. We sent an email to the only two callers in the region who do not call on a Wednesday asking if they would be willing to call for us on Bob's "off" nights. Fortunately we received a positive answer from Ron Gardner who calls for the Bay Waves and Swinging Swallows.

In addition, we learned that Canterbury has given our dance hall to another group until 8:30 p.m. They offered to rent one of their small rooms which would make for crowded dancing. We checked out the Heron Road Community Centre, which has a room of comparable size to Canterbury, and the location is about 5 minutes west of Canterbury.

We talked to the Recreation supervisor at Heron, and were told that we had to pay a private group rate with a cost of \$35 to \$40 an hour which is substantially higher than the private non-profit group rate that we had been paying. After further discussion, we were told that we could dance at Heron at the same grandfathered rate we would be paying at Canterbury. The caveat is that the rate in January would revert to the higher private group rate. Furthermore, we were told that the hall was available starting on September 20th.

A few days later, we were informed that we could resume our dancing at the Canterbury Community Centre starting on 13th September.

On the first night of dancing, most of us felt a bit rusty after more than six months, but it did not take long for us to get back into the swing of things.

More dancers are still welcome to come and dance with us.

We would love to see you!



By Sophie and Peter Kwok

Club News Swinging Swallows

A Sizzling Summer and a Fun Fall for the Pembroke Swinging Swallows!



The Swallows hosted two very public square dances, with pot-luck suppers, this summer. We danced in Pembroke's Riverside Park at the end of a paved river-side walking path and beside the campground.

The first event came quickly to an end when we watched the rain coming at us from across the river. We thought we moved fast on the dance floor – but not *this* fast!

The highlight of the second event was dancing a tip in the water –

knee high water measured by me 'cause I'm short! We had eight visiting dancers and one of our own who earned the 'fish dangle', and caller Roger Moreau earned one as well – he didn't dance but he called in the water.

Swallows' Past President, Bill Shields, presented Anne Jarcew with her dangle, and our other brave friends received their dangle by mail.



They are: Diane & Howie Marsh; Joey Walker & Richard Evans; Karin & Mickey Sandula and Margaret & Alex McIntyre. These first-time visitors also received the Swallows dangle and we hope they will join us often to add to the fun!

Robert and Rosie, our *Wanna Be Swallows* also attended and added to the fun! They received their 'fish dangle' for dancing in the water with the Swallows a few years ago, dancing in Mink Lake (recognize their backs?)



We have also been visited by a number of potential new dancers at our two Open Houses this fall, as well as having three past members return and one couple who used to dance in the Toronto area come out to join the Swallows! The Swallows hope to have a number of dedicated, talented new dancers to 'chirp' about after this coming week's sign up!



Gloria Bateman



All Day Sashay



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

SSD THRU C2	9:30-NOON : \$15	THREE DANCE HALLS
DON MOGER	1:30-4:30: \$15	VENUE:
DAVE HUTCHINSON	6:30-10:00: \$20	COURTYARD OTTAWA DOWNTOWN
BRIAN CRAWFORD	ALL THREE SESSIONS:	ROOMS: \$160 PER NIGHT
WENDY VANDERMEULEN	\$30 ADVANCE / \$40 DOOR	REGISTER ONLINE AND SAVE!



OTTAWADATESQUARES.CA/SASHAY

NAME 1:	NAME 2:
DANCE LEVEL:	DANCE LEVEL:
ADDRESS:	
EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER:	
SESSION (QUANTITY):	PAYMENT:
<input type="radio"/> ALL DAY (\$30) OR <input type="radio"/> MORNING (9:00-NOON, \$15) <input type="radio"/> AFTERNOON (1:30-4:30, \$15) <input type="radio"/> EVENING (6:30-10:00, \$20)	CREDIT CARD
	NAME ON CARD:
	CARD NUMBER:
	EXPIRY: / CVV:
	OR
TOTAL AMOUNT: <input type="text"/>	MAIL CHEQUE TO:
*NOTE: DANCING WILL BE ON CARPET. SPECIAL DANCE SOCKS WILL BE ON SALE FOR \$10.	ALL DAY SASHAY
	450 ROCHEFORT CIRCLE
	OTTAWA, ON K4A 0M9



Ring in the New Year with the Greenville Gremlins

Mainstream and Plus

*St John's United Church
Prescott St., Kemptville*

Sunday, Dec 31st, 2023

3:00pm to 5:30pm

Hot Buffet to follow

Caller: GEOFF CLARKE

Tickets: \$30.00

(Advance only)

Contact Peter Matthew

email:kemptvillesquaredance@gmail.com

Tel: 613-298-7745



Introducing . . . Swing into Spring 2024

For many dancers, there is no need to introduce this wonderful May weekend event. Many have enjoyed the dance weekends that are organized by a volunteer committee made up of EOSARDA member dancers.

The event has not been held for the past few years, so we have dancers who 'got the dancing bug' more recently and have not yet had the opportunity to participate in this fantastic dance experience. Let us explain!

The weekend features guest out-of-town dance leaders who provide workshops for multiple levels of square and round dancing. There's also plenty of dancing time to practise and apply what you've mastered at your club and in the workshops. *Swing into Spring* concludes Sunday afternoon with a "Mother's Day Dance" in one large hall so that there is room for all participants to enjoy dancing with all attendees: locals, out-of-towners, new dancers, experienced dancers, good dancers and the ones like me who sometimes use the wrong left foot! We are all there for the fun of it.



Through a fun and exciting weekend of square and round dancing, *Swing into Spring* lets you dance to visiting dance leaders who have been selected specifically to provide interesting and innovative workshops along with entertaining and fun dancing.

We hope that those dancers who have attended over the years and supported us beyond measure, as well as those experienced dancers who have not attended previously, will plan to dance the weekend away! The *Swing Into Spring* Committee especially hopes that dancers who have only recently started dancing will join us to expand their dance experience, make new friends, and send the dance season that will have just finished, out with a bang!

The Committee meets in early October to continue making plans for the 2024 event so watch our [webpage](#) and our [Facebook](#) page for updates and registration forms when they are available.

Gloria Bateman
SiS 2024 Committee

(Note that much of this article is taken from the SiS webpage!)

List of interesting web sites for our dancers

EOSARDA web site	https://www.eodance.ca/SD_clubs_full.php
EOSAREDA Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/groups/eosarda/
Ontario Federation	https://squaredance.on.ca/
Canadian Square Society	https://csrds.ca/
Toronto and District	http://www.td-dance.ca/
Southwest Ontario	https://swosda.ca/

EOSARDA Email Contacts

President	president@eosarda.ca
Email: Registrar	registrar@eosarda.ca
Email: Square Time Editor	SquareTimeEditor@eosarda.ca
Email: Bulletins	bulletins@eosarda.ca
Email: Webmaster	webmaster@eoDance.ca

EOSARDA Dance Clubs

Kanata Squares	https://www.kanatasquares.ca
Limestone Dancers	http://www.limestonedancers.org - HOME
Lockits	http://www.lockits.ca/
Meri Squares	http://merisquares.ca/
Mississippi Squares	https://www.mississippisquares.ca/
Napanee Pioneers	http://napaneesquaredance.com/
Ottawa Date Squares	https://ottawadatesquares.ca/
Quinte Twirlers	https://quintetwirlers.com/
Square Dance Ottawa	https://www.squaredanceottawa.ca/
Swinging Swallows	http://www.GetUpandDance.ca/

Square Dance Clubs

Crazy A's

A1 Friday 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Alexander Community Centre, 960 Silver Street, Ottawa

Caller: John Charman

Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen

613-282-0575

WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Glengarry Tartans

SSD* Most Sundays

Check schedule 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Usually La Fraternité Hall

49 St Paul St, Alexandria

Check Schedule

Caller: Lynn Trepanier

Contact: Carole & Bernie Lauzon

613-931-1783

clauzon55@sympatico.ca

Grenville Gremlins

Basic/MS Monday 7:30pm - 9:30pm

North Grenville Municipal Centre

285 County Road #44,

Kemptville, ON

Caller: Geoff Clarke

Contact: Debbie Armstrong

613-989-2784

kemptvillesquaredance@gmail.com

Harbour Lites

Basic/MS Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Presbyterian Church

Center & Dibble Streets, Prescott

Caller: John Charman

Contact: Donna Plume

613-391-8895

dnmmchale@gmail.com

Kanata Squares

Basic/MS Thursday 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Dick Brulé Community Centre

170 Castlefrank Rd, Kanata

Caller: Bob Summers

Contact: Marguerite Summers

613-258-7511

margueritebob@yahoo.ca

Limestone Dancers

Basic/MS/Plus Thursday 6:45pm - 9:30pm

Polson Park Public School

645 Robert Wallace Dr. Kingston

Caller: Dave Hutchinson

Contact: Shirley Brown

613 767 6650

colshirl35@gmail.com

Lockits

A2

A1 Wednesday A2 - 9:30 to 10:30am

A1 - 10:30am to 12 noon

Brunton Community Hall

1702 9th Line, Beckwith (Carleton Place)

Caller: Geoff Clarke

Contact: Geoff & Teena Clarke

613-724-8438

caller.geoff@bell.net

Meri Squares

SSD* Tuesday 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Aternating tips: SSD Teach & Full SSD

J.A.Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave, Ottawa

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: David Shackleton

613-832-2284

david@integraldesign.org

Meri Squares

Plus Thursday 7:15pm - 9:15pm
Westminister Presbyterian Church
470 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa
Caller: John Charman
Contact: David Shackleton
613-832-2284
david@integraldesign.org

Mississippi Squares

Basic/MS Tuesday 7:00-7:30pm Full MS
7:30pm - 9:30pm B/MS
Brunton Hall
1702 9th Line, Blacks Corners (Carleton Place)
Caller: Brian Crawford
Contact: Vince and Debbie Guthro
613-296-1817

Mississippi Squares

Plus, Plus Teach Friday 7:30pm - 10:00pm
Brunton Hall
1702 9th Line, Blacks Corners (Carleton Place)
Caller: Brian Crawford
Contact: Vince and Debbie Guthro
613-296-1817

Napanee Pioneers

Basic/MS/Plus Friday 7:00pm - 9:30pm
North Fredericksburgh Hall
1208 County Rd. 8, Napanee
Caller: Dave Hutchinson
Contact: Muriel Brough
613-354-4595
murielbrough@cogeco.ca
Jroger.moreau@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

SSD*/MS

LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:30pm - 8:45pm

Room B203, Jack Purcell Community Centre

320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa

Caller: Brian Crawford

Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud

613-806-3138

OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

A1

LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:45pm - 8:45pm

Room B201, Jack Purcell Community Centre

320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud

613-806-3138

OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

Plus

LGBT friendly Mondays 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Room 202, Jack Purcell Community Centre

320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud

613-806-3138

OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Quinte Twirlers

Basic, MS, Plus Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Harmony Public School

Belleville

Caller: Dave Hutchinson

Contact: David Dunham

613-403-2882

quintetwirlers@gmail.com

Riverside Gypsy Squares

MS/Plus/Rounds/Lines May/Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep

3rd Weekend of every month

(Fri evening

Sat afternoon)

Lower Beverly Lake Campground, Delta, On

Caller: Various Callers and Cuers

Contact: Helen MacCallum

1-613-330-4873

helenmaccallum@sympatico.ca

Russel Squares

Beginner Tuesday afternoon to come

to come

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen

613-282-0575,

WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Skirts 'n Flirts

B/MS Friday 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Knights of Columbus Hall

30 Miner St

Canton, NY 13617

Caller: Ron Roy

Contact: Alan & Sandy Brown

315-543-2175

sadushbrown@gmail.com

Square Dance Ottawa

Beginner One Sunday a month 2:30pm - 4:30pm

J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave., Ottawa

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen

613-282-0575,

WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Square Dance Russel

Beginner One Thursday a month 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Frank Kinnaird Community Centre, 1084 Concession St, Russell

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen

613-282-0575,

WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Sunshine Squares

Plus Wednesday 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Canterbury Community Center

2185 Arch St

Caller: Bob Summers & Ron Gardner

Contact: Doug Bennett & Laura Johnson

613-730-0002

douglas.bennett2@sympatico.ca

Swinging Bs

Basic/MS

Plus Tip Friday

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Knox - St. Paul United Church

800 Twelfth St E, Cornwall

Caller: Don Moger & Bob Summers

Contact: Joan Gaudreau

613-936-2831

hogandonw@gmail.com

Swinging Swallows

Basic/MS/Plus Thursday 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Wesley United Church Hall

275 Pembroke St E, Pembroke

Caller: Ron Gardner

Contact: Jeannie Mastine

613-732-9289

j.mastine@outlook.com

Round Dance Clubs

Capital Carousels

Ph 3-4

Thursday 10:00am - 12:00pm

Parkdale United Church

429 Parkdale Ave

Dancing to pre-recorded tapes

Contact Gavin Currie

613-739-9593

Line Dance clubs

Capital City Lines

Beginner Beginner-Plus Starting Sep 7

Wed 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Alexander Community Center

960 Silver Street, Ottawa

(AJ) Diane Poulton

613-729-4974

clogger13@sympatico.ca