



Thompson-Shuswap
Square & Round Dance News

October 2013

The Well Rounded Square



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Canadian Square & Round Dance Society
www.squaredance.ca

BC Square & Round Dance Federation
www.squaredance.bc.ca

Thompson-Shuswap Square & Round Dance Association
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THE WELL ROUNDED SQUARE

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The views and opinions expressed in individual articles and letters published in the *Well Rounded Square* are not necessarily those of the editor or editorial staff. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. The editors reserve the right to refuse to publish

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- Season Opener (Oct) issue - September 1st.
 - November issue - October 1st.
- December-January issue - November 1st.
 - February issue - December 1st.
 - March issue - February 1st.
- Grad issue (April/May) - March 1st.

Ads that require artwork must be submitted 2 weeks prior to deadlines

The WELL ROUNDED SQUARE

Thompson-Shuswap Square & Round Dance News

Serving Dancers in Kamloops, Chase, Blind Bay and Salmon Arm

ADVERTISING RATES

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Editors' Desk	4
Letters to the Editor	4
T-SS&RDA President's Report	6
T-SS&RDA Dance Schedule	6
T-SS&RDA Thanksgiving Poster	7
Club News	8
Kamloops SD Coffee Theme Poster	9
Calendar of Events	10
Round of the Month	11
Kamloops Square Dancers Voyage to Paradise	12
Kamloops Square Dancers Step-Out for a Carnival	13
Kamloops Area Dancers "Party Hard" With Others From Around BC	14
Kamloops Travellers Dance on top of the World	15
Dance Festival of 160+ Attracts Kamloops	16
Local Dancers have a "Peachy Time"	17
Square and Round Dance Awareness Week	18
Index	19

ISSN 0000-0000



From the Editors' Desk

What have we here?

This is my idea of a good presentation. I seem to have a bit of a problem standing up in front of people to do any sort of public speaking. Now, give me a computer and I'm off and running.

We were going to talk to you about the idea of the magazine. But you really can't see an idea, can you? It's much easier to show you rather than tell you.

When I sat down to design this little news magazine, my first thought was that it needed a new name. I know that the *Twirl & Twinkle* was extremely popular but that idea belonged to Don & Rita McLeod. If I were to start publishing under their magazine's name, people would expect it to be the same as it's always been. Don & Rita put a lot of time and heart into their publication and I would not want to take that away from them. Anyone who has done any creative writing knows that it takes a great deal of time and thought in order to write one article, let alone a whole magazine.

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Letters to the Editors

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Did you Know?

You could have your dance articles published by the *Well Rounded*

Square free of charge. When you're travelling, do you often see something that you would like to share with your club back home? Would you like to have a column of your own? Email us your newsworthy square and round dance articles and we'll work hard to get them in our next issue.

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President's Report



October 20, 2013

It is wonderful to see you again and have the start of a new season.

Hope you had a very good summer and got in some dancing.

Werner and I took in the 108 Mile weekend and it was great to meet our friends and have some excellent dancing to Murray Few. We really enjoyed the Contra dancing that Mary Ann and Nick put on Sat morning. It would be so nice to have them come here and put on a work shop for a weekend.

The Penticton weekend was great fun and the meeting was informative. I ask for some money to help with equipment for Jean to do the magazine and was given \$500.00 so that should help get a printer for Jean to use.

Hopefully we will have a new Square dance magazine soon as Jean and Bill Wood plan on putting one out. I always missed the Twirl and Twinkle when Rita had to close it down.

In the Federation constitution there are the 3 "p's" in Square Dancing Preservation, Promotion and Perpetuation.

We need to pay more attention to our Constitutions and rules and thoughtfulness in our Clubs if we are to increase our members and have vibrant and healthy clubs. We really need to think of our volunteers and help them, give a pat on the back and see how far it goes.

The colors of fall are so beautiful right now, it is glorious to go for a drive and let our eyes absorb it all.

We will have a good year of dancing and hopefully start some more Rounds and Contra dancing.

Thank you,

Paula Weir, president of TSS&RDA

T.S.-S.&R.D.A. MEETING & DANCE SCHEDULE 2013 - 2014

Date	Meeting	Dance	Description	M/C
Oct 20 2013	12:30-1:30	2:00-4:30	Thanksgiving Dance, 1/2 hour pre rounds and M/S squares with 1 round between tips	W.W.
Nov 17 2013	12:30-1:30	2:00-4:30	Winters Eve Dance M/S level with rounds	P.W.
Jan 19 2014	12:30-1:30	2:00-4:30	3/4 Dance - N/D level with rounds	A.P.
Feb 16 2014	No Meeting	2:00-4:30	Valentine Dance – N/D level with rounds	D.K.
Mar 16 2014	12:30-1:30	2:00-4:30	Spring Frolic - N/D level with rounds	S.M.
Apr 13 2014	12:00-1:30	2:00-4:30	Freshman's Frolic - M/S grad level with rounds	M.M.
Oct 19 2014	12:30-1:30	2:00-4:30	Thanksgiving Dance Pre Rounds & M/S	M.S.

M/C Rotation
 W.W. Wendy Winterhalder
 P.W. Peter Weel
 A.P. Allan Peterson

D.K. Don Krebs
 S.M. Sandy Meyer
 M.M. Merv Meyer
 M.S. Mariann Sanford

**THOMPSON SHUSWAP
SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION**

General Meeting

12:30 - 1:30 PM, Oct. 20, 2013



Thanksgiving Dance

Oct 20, 2013

2:00 - 4:30 PM



Chase Community Hall

547 Shuswap Ave., Chase, B.C.

1/2 hour pre rounds

Mainstream squares with 1 round between tips

Admission \$5.00 per person

Panel of Callers & Cuers

MC: Wendy Winterhalder



Please bring finger food to share

Remember to keep our dances scent-free

Club News

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KAMLOOPS SQUARE DANCERS

Plus Dancing Wednesday Nights

7:30--9:30

THEME AND COFFEE NIGHTS

September 25 / 2013 Coffee night

October 30 / 2013 Halloween

November 27 / 2013 Cowboy / Cowgirl

January 29 / 2014 Tacky Tourist

February 26 / 2014 Hillbilly / Sadie Hawkins

March 26 / 2014 Hawaiian

April 23 / 2014 Coffee

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Google [kamloopssquaredancers](https://www.google.com/search?q=kamloopssquaredancers)

REGION 9 THOMPSON-SHUSWAP
SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 PM SA (ND) 7:30 PM KSD (+) 8 PM SA (MS)	3 5:30P TT OPEN HOUSE 7:30P KSD (ND)	4	5
6 1P TVS (+)	7	8	9 7:30 PM KSD (+)	10 6:30P TT (ND) 7:30P KSD (ND) 7:30P TT (MS)	11 1P TVS (+)	12
13	14 THANKSGIVING DAY	15	16 7:30 PM KSD (+)	17 6:30P TT (ND) 7:30P KSD (ND) 7:30P TT (MS)	18 1P TVS (+)	19
20 R9 Meeting & Thanksgiving Dance	21	22	23 6:30 PM SA (ND) 7:30 PM KSD (+) 8 PM SA (MS)	24 6:30P TT (ND) 7:30P KSD (ND) 7:30P TT (MS)	25 1P TVS (+)	26
27	28	29	30 6:30 PM SA (ND) 7:30 PM KSD (+) 8 PM SA (MS)	31 HALLOWEEN 6:30P TT (ND) 7:30P KSD (ND) 7:30P TT (MS)		

*Upcoming
Regional
Events*

- October 20th - 12:30 pm - Regional Meeting & 2 pm - Thanksgiving Dance
- October 30th, 7:30 pm - Kamloops Square Dancers Plus Halloween Dance
- October 30th, 6:30 pm - Salmon Arm Squares Halloween Dance
- October 31st, 6:30 pm - Ta'lana Twirlers Halloween Dress-Up Night
- November 2nd, 2 pm & 7:30 pm - Kamloops Square Dancers Harvest Hop
- November 17th, 12:30 pm - Regional Meeting & 2 pm - Winters Eve Dance
- November 27th, 7:30 pm - Kamloops Square Dancers Plus Cowboy/Cowgirl Night
- November 30th, 7 pm - Salmon Arm Squares Christmas and 20-year Anniversary Dance
- December 14th, 6 pm - Kamloops Square Dancers Christmas Potluck & Dance
- December 18th - Salmon Arm Squares Christmas Potluck

October 2013

Region 2's Choice for Round of the Month

BOOGIE WOOGIE TWO-STEP

Choreographer: Mike & Michelle Seurer 22 7th Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935 (920)907-1214

Record: Collectable 90030-B, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy", The Andrew Sisters,

Footwork: Opposite, except as noted

Released: May 2004

Phase: II

Rhythm: Two-Step

Speed: 45 rpm

Sequence: INTRO AABC BC AB ENDING

INTRODUCTION

1----6 IN OP/LOD WAIT 4 MEAS.;; APT -;PT.-; TOG,-;TCH.-;

1-4 In OP/LOD wait 4 meas;;

5-6 Apt L,-; pt R,-;Tog R, to CP/WALL tch L to R,-;

7----12 BROKEN BOX;;; 4 SIDE TOUCHES.;

7-8 Sd L, cl R, fwd L,-; Rk fwd R, rec L,-;

9-10 Sd R, cl L, bk R,-; Rk bk L, rec R to BFLY/WALL,-;

11-12 Sd L, tch R to L, sd R, tch L to R,-; Sd L, tch R to L, sd R, tch L to R,-;

PART A

1----4 FACE TO FACE; BACK TO BACK; BASKETBALL TURN.;

1-2 Sd L, cl R sd L trng ¼ LF (W RF),-; Sd R, cl L, sd R trng to BFLY/WALL,-;

3-4 Lunge LOD L,-, rec R trng ½ to RLOD,-; Lunge RLOD L,-, rec R trng ½

RF to fc OP/LOD,-;

5----8 HITCH 4; WALK TWO; SCIS THRU; WALK TWO;

5-6 Fwd L, cl R, bk L, cl R,-; Fwd L,R,-;

7-8 Sd L, cl R, XLif of R,-; Fwd R,L,-;

9----12 SCIS THRU; WALK TWO; VINE 8.;

9-10 Sd R, cl L, XRif of L,-; Fwd L,R,-;

11-12 Sd L, XRib of L, sd L, XRif of L,-;Sd L, XRib of L, sd L, XRif of L,-;

PART B

1----4 SKATE L & R; SIDE TWO-STEP; SKATE R&L;SIDE TWO-STEP;

1-2 Sd L, draw R to L, sd R, draw L to R,-; Sd L, cl R, sd L, tch R,-;

3-4 Sd R, draw L to R, sd L, draw R to L,-; Sd R, cl L, sd R, tch L,-;

5----8 BOX.;; OPEN VINE 4.;

5-6 Sd L, cl R, fwd L,-; Sd R, cl L,bk R,-;

7-8 Sd L, XRib of L,-; sd L, XRif of L,-;

9----12 CIRCLE AWAY TWO TWO-STEPS.;; STRUT TOG 4.;

9-10 Circ twd COH(W twd WALL) Fwd L, cl R, fwd L,-; Fwd R, cl L, fwd R trng LF to fc ptr,-;

11-12 Strut twd ptr Fwd L,-,R,-; Fwd L,-, R to CP/WALL,-;

PART C

1----4 SIDE DRAW CLOSE.;; OK VINE 4; WALK TWO;

1-2 Sd L ,draw R to L, cl R,-; Sd L ,draw R to L, cl R,-;

3-4 Sd L, XRib of L,-, sd L, XRif of L,-;Fwd L,-R to CP/WALL,-;

5----8 LEFT TURNING BOX.;;;

1-2 Sd L, cl R, fwd L trng ¼ LF fc LOD,-; Sd R, cl L, bk R trng ¼ LF to fc COH,-;

3-4 Sd L, cl R, fwd L trng ¼ LF fc RLOD,-; Sd R, cl L, bk R trng ¼ LF,-;

9----12 BACK AWAY 3; 3 MORE; STRUT TOG 4.;

9-10 Step bk twd COHL,R,L,-; back R,L,R,-;

11-12 Strut twd ptr Fwd L,-,R,-; Fwd L,-, R to fc WALL,-;

ENDING

1----3 TWIRL VINE 2; WALK TWO; OK APT PT;

1-3 Sd L, XRib(W twrls Rf undr ld hnds),-;Fwd L,-, R,-; Apt L,-, pt R,-;



Kamloops Square Dancers Voyage to Paradise by Sandy Meyer

June 1st, 2013

There were grass-skirted men performing traditional native dances, flower-crowned ladies beating out Polynesian rhythms with sticks, tropical foods featuring fresh fruits and visual surroundings that tricked the eye into believing this was Polynesia. In actual fact, it was a square and round dance weekend not to be missed by Merv and Sandy Meyer of Kamloops.

The Meyers even travelled to the Williams Lake event, called the “Polynesian Paradise Mainstream Jamboree,” with other dancers in a big passenger van that originated in the Central Okanagan. Merv Meyer said: “It was likened to how the early Polynesians, ancestors of today’s Hawaiians, explored the high seas in large, double-hulled voyaging canoes.” Meyer enjoyed the tropical spirit of his fellow dancer-voyagers, all wearing leis and some sporting straw hats.

The Dance Jamboree is a long-running annual event in Williams Lake and it always has a theme. The Meyers have been before. A total of five dance occasions, May 24 to 26, starting Friday night and closing Sunday morning, kept the dancers hopping. A hot roast beef dinner was served up on the Saturday night in a school gymnasium temporarily re-named the “Outrigger Cafe.” Over 80 dancers attended from throughout B.C.’s north, central and southern interior and some came from as far away as Victoria.

Sandy Meyer beamed “we did our best to represent the Kamloops area and to fit the theme of the dance, from Hawaiian-style clothing to leis, flower wrist bracelets and Hibiscus flower hair clips.” She continued “it was amazing how extensively the theme permeated the weekend, from the fabulous decorations to the entertainment and the great square and round dancing, much of it to Hawaiian-style music.”

Not only did the Meyers dance but they also led some of the dancing. Merv is a square dance caller and Sandy is a round dance cuer. Round dancing is choreographed ballroom that is “cued” as it progresses. The main program at the event featured a 21 year old square dance caller from the Okanagan who kept things fun and entertaining.

Of the square dance activity, Merv Meyer enthused “you can’t beat it—you get a moderate physical workout, move to modern music, have loads of fun and there are many opportunities to travel to enjoyable dances.”

After participating in most all the dancing at the five events, when their voyage ended back in Kamloops the Meyers were ready to climb into their hammocks for a well-deserved rest.

For more information about the Kamloops Square Dance club, including new dancer sessions starting in the Fall, call 250 376-5636, or email: meyerdance@telus.net.

The benefits of the recreation can be explored at:

<http://www.kamloopssquaredancers.squaredance.bc.ca/newdancers.html>

or: www.TakeMeDancing.squaredance.bc.ca



Kamloops Square Dancers Step-Out for a Carnival by Sandy Meyer

June 10th, 2013

Lavishly dressed dancers, some wearing brilliantly-coloured beads, carnival masks and party hats, gathered together recently for a weekend of square and round dancing. Kamloops dancers Merv & Sandy Meyer and John & Elsie Rempel were sure to attend — even though it was in Chilliwack.

Held at the Atchelitz Hall, “Rally-in-the-Valley” is a 3-day annual event presented by the Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers Square & Round

Dance Club. Each year they have a different theme and this year it was ‘Carnival’. The Meyers and Rempels were thrilled to join over 100 dancers from all over the Province. They gratefully accepted the welcoming gift of a water bottle with brightly coloured beads attached, part of the festive atmosphere.

Recalling the fun, Elsie Rempel said “it was a most enjoyable dance weekend and there were so many great events, all of it very reasonably priced.” She explained that they started Friday night with a “Trail-In Dance” then the fun continued Saturday morning with a Pyjama dance following a continental breakfast.

The Meyers, as leaders themselves, enjoyed two ‘workshops’ where the dancers learn different combinations of moves in round dancing and square dancing. John Rempel pointed out that wherever you travel to square and round dance, there’s always good food. He cited the “splendid” Saturday potluck dinner, which included an assortment of salads, casseroles, and lots of fresh fruits.

Sandy Meyer chose one of her nicest dance outfits to participate in the Grand March that opened Saturday night’s dancing. She bubbled “after the dance they presented yet more fun — some very amusing skits.”

Featured at the Carnival were Dan and Anita Adams, who have been calling and cueing since 1984. They also call and cue for Chilliwack Club. The Adams asked caller/cuer Merv & Sandy Meyer of Kamloops to participate in the program on Friday and Sunday. Merv, with 13 years behind the microphone calling square dances in the Kamloops and Chase area, was quick to step up to call.

As a qualified round dance cuer, Sandy Meyer also took the microphone to prompt the round dancers with their next step. She enthuses that round dancing, a choreographed version of ballroom dancing, is something that anybody can do. “You simply learn the individual steps,” she says, “then I put them into sequences and cue every move – there’s no memorizing and no need for someone to lead.”

Not having had their fill of dancing, the Meyers and Rempels headed out yet again Sunday morning for a pancake breakfast complete with sausages, strawberry topping and fresh fruits. Then, dancers packed up their RV’s and some 50 of them went on to MinterGardens to stroll in the gardens and dance for captivated visitors. Some of those visitors had their photo taken next to the dancers. An exhausted Merv Meyer concluded “the weather was absolutely perfect and it was a beautiful setting for the final dance of the weekend.”

Elsie Rempel pointed out that “the dancing fun that my husband and I enjoy is within reach of any Kamloops area resident.” She continued “you simply attend new dancer sessions and a whole new world of fun and socialization will open up for you.”

For more information about the Kamloops Square Dance club, including new dancer sessions starting in the Fall, call 250-376-5636, or email: meyerdance@telus.net.

See an entertaining video of this year’s Chilliwack dance Carnival at www.YouTube.com, search for “Rally in the Valley.” The benefits of the recreation can be explored at: <http://www.kamloopssquaredancers.squaredance.bc.ca/newdancers.html>



Kamloops Area Dancers “Party Hard” With Others From Around BC by Sandy Meyer

July 5th, 2013

Dancers from Kamloops quick-stepped north to 108 Mile House on Father’s Day Weekend to find campers of all descriptions, from a basic canvas tent to RV’s including top-of-the-line motorhomes. It was an assembly for a just-for-fun square and round dance weekend named the 57th South Cariboo Jamboree. Notable is the fact that the party encompassed five dance events over three days.

175 dancers from throughout B.C. attended the event including six

couples from the Kamloops area:

Merv & Sandy Meyer of Westmount, Brent & Karen Olsen of Brocklehurst, John & Elsie Rempel of Valleyview, Joan Parker & Jim Riddle of Brocklehurst, Dave & Leona Wilkinson of North Kamloops, and Bill & Joyce Travis of Brocklehurst.

The featured caller on Saturday was Murray Few from Edmonton, AB. Helen Hall of Lac La Hache was the featured cuer. Square dancing veteran caller Dave Abbs of 100 Mile House was MC for the entire weekend, as he has been for the past 57 years.

Callers & Cuers from all over BC entertained at the Friday and Sunday dances, keeping more than 20 squares of dancers sashaying and stepping out for hours on end. For the uninitiated, one square consists of 8 dancers. Kamloops’ own Merv Meyer, one of BC’s well-known callers, sang a duet with his wife Sandy much to the delight of the crowd. The two call & cue for the Kamloops Square Dancers Club.

“It was great to see so many friends from square and round dance clubs all over BC at this wonderful event,” Merv enthused.

Friday night started with what’s known as a “Trail-In.” Sandy Meyer explained “this dance is really enjoyed by square dancers and so in order to get an RV parking space, most dancers got there as early as they could that day.”

Saturday morning started with easy ‘Contra’ dancing which is facing interactive lines where the dancers move across and up and down—it’s considered a forerunner to the modern square dance. A square dance workshop followed that enabled all dancers to share a few hints and moves, including different positions in the “Mainstream Program,” the most common level of accomplishment in today’s square dancing.

A full-course roast beef dinner was served Saturday evening followed by more music and dancing. The participants from Kamloops say the floor was literally bouncing as happy people kicked up their heels. About the Sunday morning pancake breakfast, several say it was “lip-smacking.” After all the “party hard” dancing up until then, there were still many dancers energetic enough to hit the floor again and the fun & laughter went on until almost noon.

The Meyers were one of the last to leave on Sunday. They were heading north to Fairbanks, Alaska, to attend yet another Square and Round Dance Festival starting 4 days later.

Brent Olsen commented, “As well-attended as this weekend Jamboree was, the fact is that it may very well be the final fling for this 57-year event due to diminishing memberships in the two South Cariboo square dance clubs.”

He added “This wouldn’t be the case if more people would only realize what a perfect way it is to exercise, socialize and have great times with friendly people.”

The Kamloops Square Dancers club presents two free new dancer sessions September 12 & 19 at 7:30 pm in the Desert Gardens Community Centre, followed by 10 more fun sessions by registration. The Sept. 12 & 19 free nights are casual attire, no commitment and no obligation. For information, call 250-376-5636, or e-mail: meyerdance@telus.net



Kamloops Travellers Dance on top of the World by Sandy Meyer

July 20th,

When you've already travelled to 108 Mile House to square and round dance, Kamloops couple Merv & Sandy Meyer figured they'd just head farther up the road to another dance—in Alaska. After dancing up a storm at the 57th South Cariboo Jamboree, they drove their pickup and canopy along the scenic highways into a wildlife menagerie. Encountering black bear, moose, elk, caribou, many buffalo, whitetail and mule deer, Sandy Meyer said “at one point, only steps away from our truck, was a grizzly bear munching on the grass”.

Their main goal was to reach the Alaska State Square & Round Dance Festival in Fairbanks, just 4 days away. Sandy explained, “On June 21st, the longest day of the year, there was a ‘Midnight Sun Dance’. This is where the square dancers can earn a ‘fun badge’ for dancing in the sunlight at midnight.”

Arriving at the Festival, both the Meyers were invited to call and cue on several occasions to an enthusiastic and appreciative floor of dancers. Merv calls square dances and Sandy cues round dances (choreographed ballroom). The crowd enjoyed dancing to one of the Meyers' favourite duet singing calls. Merv enthused “I was very pleased to get a chance to dance to the featured professional caller Marshall Flippo, because one of the first singing calls I did was from one of his records”. Mike Preskitt of Anchorage, Alaska, was the featured cuer.

The Festival was co-hosted by the *Santa's Swingers*, from the town of *North Pole* and the *Prospector Squares* of *Anchorage*. In fact, the Meyers visited North Pole and Santa's House, just 22 kilometres south of Fairbanks. Sandy said “honestly, I didn't know a ‘real’ North Pole and a Santa Claus House existed—I was so excited to actually be there.”

Although the Meyers' main objective was to reach the Alaska Dance Festival in Fairbanks, they decided to continue on, following the “Top of the World Highway” to Dawson City in the Yukon. From there, they traveled the famous Dempster Highway reaching Inuvik, Northwest Territories. This is the farthest point north accessible by road in the summer, some 750 kilometres each way on a gravel surface. Inuvik is 328 km north of the Arctic Circle.

Another highlight of their trip was to take a dip in the steamy waters of Liard Hot Springs. There, the mineral water temperatures range from 108 degrees to 126 degrees F. In Dawson City, they took in two events, one being a tour of the beautifully restored Grand Palace Theatre. The other attraction was the “Greatest Klondiker Contest,” where 3 actors portrayed early pioneers from the Gold Rush era (Sam Steele won the contest). In Whitehorse, they toured the skillfully restored *Klondike* Stern-wheeler.

There's no doubt that the Meyers love square and round dancing because, upon return from Alaska, a dance festival at Parksville on Vancouver Island was the next destination. “We love to fit dancing into our travels,” said Merv Meyer with great conviction, explaining “we've made friends from one end of the continent to the other, who also enjoy this wonderful healthy recreation.”

Merv and Sandy Meyer encourage Kamloops area residents to join the fun and try today's style of square dancing this Fall. The Kamloops Square Dancers club presents two free new dancer sessions September 12 & 19 at 7:30 pm in the Desert Gardens Community Centre, followed by 10 more fun sessions by registration. The Sept. 12 & 19 free nights are casual attire, no commitment and no obligation. For information, call 250-376-5636, or e-mail: meyerdance@telus.net



Dance Festival of 160+ Attracts Kamloops Participants

By Sandy Meyer

August 26th, 2013

A recent 3-day dance festival called “Oceanside” at Parksville on Vancouver Island found some Kamloops participants among the more than 160 dancers in attendance. Merv & Sandy Meyer, from our city’s Westmount area, joined others from all over Canada and the U.S. Oceanside is actually a name that Islanders use for a collection of communities surrounding Parksville.

Each morning during the Thursday/Friday/Saturday run of the Festival, the dancing began to a ‘panel of callers.’ This is when different callers from around the province donate their talents and time. Following one morning dance, Allen & Lexie Ebl of the Kamloops region accompanied the Meyers for a leisurely lunch break at a nearby Bistro.

The very next day, the popular eatery close to the dance hall attracted many other fellow dancers from the interior for a special moment. They were reunited with Shirley Gordon, longtime resident and dancer from Kamloops, who had recently moved to Parksville. “This is the wonderful part of square dancing” exclaimed Shirley, continuing “the social benefits and friends you make last over your lifetime.” Allen Ebl pointed out that he and his wife Lexie enjoy taking in ‘all aspects’ of square and round dancing, which includes the traveling, the visiting and the laughter. “I love the fact that everyone is so friendly,” Lexie said.

Attending the Festival as well were Wilma & Allan Baker of Abbotsford. Merv Meyer remarked “I used to dance with the Bakers in the 1980’s when I lived in the Lower Mainland. It was great to see them again and good to know that they still enjoy dancing now as much as they did then.”

The Meyers, who teach square and round dancing themselves, enjoyed two ‘workshops’ each afternoon, where the dancers learn different combinations of moves in ‘Plus’ dancing. It’s a level of modern square dancing where dancers can enjoy more challenging calls, such as ‘Teacup Chain,’ ‘Spin Chain the Gears,’ ‘Relay the Deucey,’ ‘Ping Pong Circulate’ and many others. Workshops give you a chance to try out these moves from numerous positions.

The evening square and round dances on both Thursday and Friday were called by a panel of callers and cuers. The dances include two ‘round dances’ (choreographed ballroom) between ‘tips.’ A ‘tip’ entails a *patter* and a *singing call*. A *patter* is a series of called figures which allow the dancers to intermingle and then get you back to your partner. The second part of a ‘tip’ is a *singing call*, which gives the men a chance to dance with each lady in the square. Merv & Sandy Meyer had the opportunity to perform some much-loved duets to a full floor of enthusiastic dancers. They also got to dance with each other when Sandy wasn’t taking her turn ‘cueing.’

“Saturday night is the main attraction,” explained Sandy, “where the featured caller and cuer put on the entire evening dance, entertaining and joking while performing.” The featured caller, Jerry Junck, makes his home in Wayne, Nebraska, during the summer and in Mesa, Arizona, for the winter. Merv recalls “I have used some of Jerry’s recordings in the past and he is a very smooth-flowing caller.” He continued, “Jerry’s basic philosophy is that square dancing must be fun.” Sandy commented on how friendly and down-to-earth Jerry was and that he mixed well with the dancers. Stuart Hemmings, who cues and teaches round dancing in Victoria, was the featured cuer.

The Meyers encourage Kamloops area residents to join the fun and try today’s “modern” style of square dancing this Fall. The Kamloops Square Dancers club presents two free new dancer sessions September 12 & 19, with no commitment and no obligation, at 7:30 pm in the Desert Gardens Community Centre, followed by 10 more fun sessions by registration. For information, call 250-376-5636, or e-mail: meyerdance@telus.net.

The benefits of the recreation can be explored at: <http://www.kamloopssquaredancers.squaredance.bc.ca/newdancers.html>

or: www.TakeMeDancing.squaredance.bc.ca



Local Dancers have a “Peachy Time”

September 10th, 2013

Four days of fun, laughter and new or renewed friendships were experienced recently by nine Kamloops area dancers at the 10th Annual Peachfest Square Dance Festival in Penticton.

One of many overall Peachfest attractions, the square and round dance Festival, ran August 7th through 10th. The final dance on the Saturday evening was enjoyed by 225 dancers from throughout B.C., other Western provinces and the Northwestern U.S.

For those accomplished in today’s modern style of square dancing and its counterpart, round dancing (choreographed ballroom dancing), the Festival is a mecca of fun activity.

One notable if not wild event is the “Aquaducks” on the Saturday afternoon. The dancers step into Okanagan Lake, just offshore, and tread through the water with considerable effort. “I tried to do all the square dance moves with the other dancers but, depending on how deep you are in the lake, you can’t move very fast” said Jan McLaughlin of Kamloops, exclaiming “at times I just laughed and splashed others as they splashed me.”

The Kamloops participants at the Festival included Carol & Gary Bacon, Jim Flack, Marg Montalbetti, Jan McLaughlin, Sandy & Merv Meyer and Donna & Ivan Sambolec. Recalling the fun, Carol Bacon said “looking around the beautiful dance hall, I was impressed by the smiles on everyone’s face – they were out getting exercise but having so much fun at the same time.” She continued “as well as seeing old friends who have been dancing for many years, it’s so refreshing to see the younger dancers taking part.”

Gary Bacon beamed “I was captivated with the Brendzy family of entertainers from Burnaby. Dad Ray Brendzy was accompanied by daughter Caitlyn & son Nicholas and they did an amazing job of calling to a crowded floor of dancers.”

The Festival featured casual weekday morning dancing Thursday and Friday and a nightly dance on each of the four days. The dance program schedules square dance callers and round dance cuers from various clubs, taking turns on the stage. Sandy & Merv Meyer of Kamloops were among those from far and wide, all of whom volunteer their time to participate.

Marg Montalbetti enthused “The highlight of ‘Peachfest’ for me was the opportunity to dance with friends to such a variety of talented callers, especially ‘Penticton’s Very Own’ and the ‘BC Boys’.” Teamed up with ‘Penticton’s Very Own’ (Dustin McGifford, Ralph Halsall & Barry Sjolín) were two of the ‘BC Boys’ (Steve Edlund & Ray Brendzy from the Lower Mainland). The quintet sang out calls to the tune “Rocky Mountain Music.”

Not to be forgotten were the pre-teens and teens, many from square dance families, who had their own special “Teen Dance” on Friday afternoon. Nicholas Brendzy, the young caller from Burnaby, was the emcee. Donna Sambolec commented “It’s nice to hear how the younger callers’ voices are developing each year – Krista Ferguson, Caitlyn & Nicolas Brendzy and Elizabeth Baird – three of whom we’ve known since they were born.”

Donna went on to say “next month will be the 30th anniversary of my first square dance lesson with Ken & Sally Crisp of the Swinging Singles from Burnaby.” Ken Crisp was one of many callers present at the Festival.

Square dancing in Penticton in August is a long-standing recreation that once drew thousands to dance on an outdoor floor at King’s Park. This was the 60th year of summer dancing in Penticton.

Kamloops area residents, too, can dance one day at the Penticton Festival by learning today’s “modern” style of square dancing this Fall. The Kamloops Square Dancers club presents two free new dancer sessions, September 12 & 19, with no commitment and no obligation, at 7:30 pm in the Desert Gardens Community Centre, followed by 10 more fun sessions by registration. For information, call 250-376-5636, or e-mail: meyerdance@telus.net.

The benefits of the recreation can be explored at: <http://www.kamloopssquaredancers.squaredance.bc.ca/newdancers.html>



Square and Round Dance Awareness Week

By Sandy Meyer

Perhaps motivated by a desire to change the sedentary lives that many British Columbians lead, the provincial government has issued a Proclamation of Square and Round Dance Awareness Week, September 15 to 21.

It was welcomed by the non-profit Kamloops Square Dancers square and round dance club.

Publicity volunteer, Karen Olsen of Brocklehurst, enthused “today’s style of square dancing is a great experience for people, benefitting their physical, mental and social health.” She identified that the music is very modern and there are no complicated steps—you simply have to walk.

The Proclamation opened with the words “Whereas square and round dancing are relaxing and enjoyable forms of exercise that improve the physical and mental health of young and old alike,” and concluded “we do by these presents proclaim and declare (Awareness Week).”

Kamloops dancer Sarah Schmidt said “this type of dance is good for all ages—the music is so uplifting and the dancers are so friendly that they make me feel very comfortable—on top of that, I made new friends.” She explained “When I was a new square dancer—I took the two free lessons and I was hooked—I’m very pleased.”

Bob and Marilyn Puff, of Westsyde, recall their initial steps on the dance floor: “when we first started,” Marilyn said, “we found the moves rather challenging but, thanks to ‘angels’ (dance assistants) and the patient caller, we learned them – they were very forgiving if we made errors.” They’re finding that their reaction to the square dance calls is becoming automatic, adding “we enjoy the experience and the camaraderie very much and will continue... the more we dance, the more we enjoy it.”

Olsen adds that “not to be forgotten is that many of us also enjoy round dancing, which is choreographed ballroom dancing set to a particular piece of music.” She explains “a ‘cuer’ guides you through each sequence with no need to memorize routines—nobody leads.”

The Kamloops Square Dance club extends an invitation to the general public to discover a great experience on the square dance floor. They host an Open House and a free 2-hour dance lesson Thurs. September 12th at Desert Gardens Community Centre, 540 Seymour Street, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. One more free Thursday dance session will follow on September 19th at the same location, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Attend one or both dates with no obligation, no commitment. Additional sessions will follow by registration.

For more information, contact: 250-376-5636 or 250-376-4692 – or meyerdance@telus.net

The benefits of the recreation can be explored at: <http://www.kamloopssquaredancers.squaredance.bc.ca/newdancers.html>

or: www.TakeMeDancing.squaredance.bc.ca

Also, see the online video: www.DancingKeepsYouYoung.ca

INDEX

Index Item	1	Index Item	4	Index Item	7
Index Item	2	Index Item	5	Index Item	4
Index Item	3	Index Item	6	Index Item	6
Index Item	4	Index Item	2	Index Item	8
Index Item	4	Index Item	6	Index Item	9
Index Item	4	Index Item	3	Index Item	10
Index Item	5	Index Item	1	Index Item	11
Index Item	6	Index Item	5	Index Item	12
Index Item	6	Index Item	5	Index Item	18
Index Item	7	Index Item	5	Index Item	18
Index Item	8	Index Item	5	Index Item	17



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