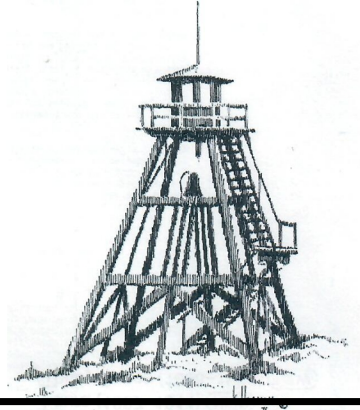


The

Guardian



Last Chance Squares, Helena, Montana - March 2024- Volume 19

We have a very busy dance schedule until Memorial Day, to help prepare all of our dancers for the Montana State Square & Round Dance Festival. We will be dancing at 3 different venues so please check to see where we are dancing. Finger food are always welcome. There will be water available at all dancing at the BHB. At Jefferson & the church, you will have to bring your own beverage.

March 16th - ST. PATRICK'S - SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS - BHB

18th - 6:30 - NEW DANCER GRADUATION - Jefferson School

23rd - Plus Lesson - 3:00 - 5:00 - BHB

Rounds Teach/Dance - 6:00 - 8:30

25rd- Plus - 6:30 - 8 - East Helena Church

April 1st - 6:30 -Floor time for new dancers - Jefferson School

8:00-8:45 - Plus

6th - Round Teach/Dance - 3:00 6:30 - BHB

8th - 6:30 - Floor Time - Jefferson School

8:00 - Plus

13th - 5:00 Rounds Teach/Dance - BHB

6:30pm - REGULAR CLUB DANCE

15th - 6:30 - Floor Time - Jefferson School

8:00 - Plus

19th - 20th - USA WEST 2025 Kick off Dance - Spokane

22nd - 630 Floor time - Jefferson School

8:00 - Plus

27th - SPRING FLING - SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS

29th - 6:30 - Floor Time - Jefferson School

8:00 - Plus

May 4th - 5:00 - Plus - BHB

6:30 - REGULAR CLUB DANCE

6th - 6:30 - Floor time - Jefferson School

8:00 - Plus

13th - 6:30 - Floor time - Jefferson School

8:00 - Plus

18th --Ivan's Barn Dance - Dillon - SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS

24th - MONTANA STATE FESTIVAL - BILLINGS

Break
time

Last Chance Squares Meeting
9 March 2025 – 4pm – BHB, Fairgrounds

Present:

Virgil Kaiser - President	Karen Long- Treasurer	Jessie Eaton
Kathy – Personal Secretary	Tracy Matz	Glen Tusler – Caller/Cuer
Karyn Hamilton – Secretary & 2026 Helena State Chair	Kim Benjamin – 2026 Treasurer	Leola – Glen’s Taw
Dwain Wood	Joanie Benjamin	Judy Reel
Shirlie Kuykendall 2026 – Co-Chair	Kim Stueve	Butch Suttley - Caller
Michelle Gale		Faye Suttley - Cuer

Virgill called meeting to Order at 4:00pm.

First order of Business was to ask Leola what help she needed for the new dancer graduation. She said help with the decorating promptly at 6:15. Several said they would be there.

Kathy said she would split the cost of the cake with Leola and Glen said he had the rest of the program handled. It would follow the same theme as last year.

Having graduation settle we moved to the agenda for the 2026 Festival which Last Chance Squares is Hosting, with Karyn Hamilton being the Chairman & Shirlie Kuykendall Co-Chair.

Theme – Puffy Skirts & Cowboy Boots

“Have A Capital Time”

was settled on, after much discussion. (some of us see cowboy boots in our future)

For our dress and we decided to go with blue & white and Western bandana skirts that we had used in the past. Karyn had skirts & shirts to show what we had used before. The skirts will cost about \$10-12 to make and Karyn has two(2) they can purchase from the Club & one shirt. Jessie found the bandana on-line and ordered 1 to see what the material is like

Shirlie said that she had checked with the Capital and we can have a badge dance either in the Rotundra or outside in front of the Capital. We will dance outside if it is not raining. Karyn will see if there is a possibility of using the Fire station next to the hall for another badge dance.

Kathy will head up the skit using the theme. As soon as we get an idea, we can start putting the skit together. It will be presented on 2025 State Dance in Ronan

For decorations, Karyn has a pattern for life size silhouettes to make our guys & gals up in “Western Attire”, plus we can use the horses with Manikins aboard, dressed in Square Dance attire. Karyn is also crocheting dolls (bed dolls, air freshner, tissue covers, etc) with “puffy skirts” to use and then raffle off.

Banner patch – no one wanted to take that on so Karyn will.

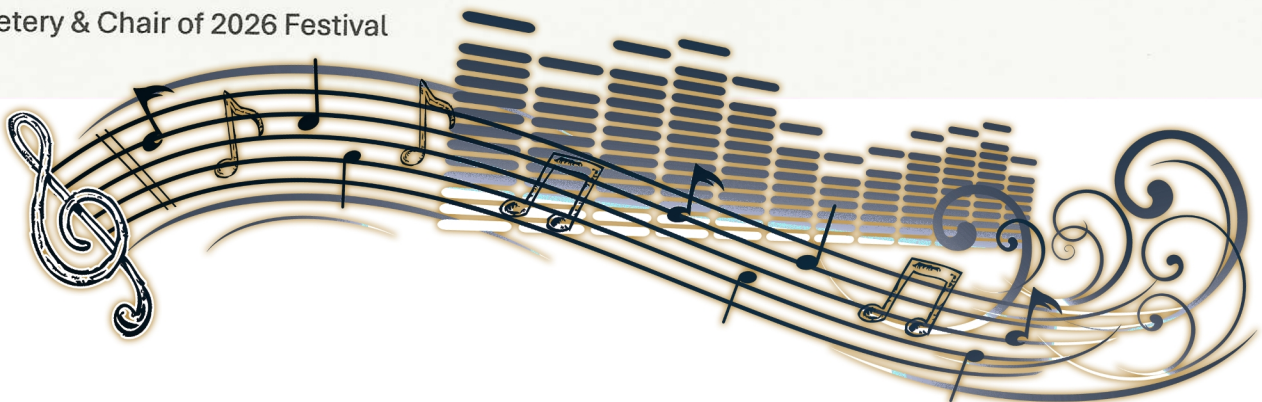
Quilt – we decided to use just blue & white colors. Steffanie had said she would take this on, but Karyn will check with her to make sure, also maybe Stella.

Karyn also passed out a couple of dance schedules for everyone to look at and to think about what we want. For now, we will wait to see what Ronan has for a schedule at Billings.

Having no new business, meeting was adjourned at 5:00 for Round dancing and the Regular dance

Karyn L Hamilton

Secretary & Chair of 2026 Festival



TEN COMMANDMENTS

(FOR SQUARE DANCERS)

BY

Ann Anonymous

- 1) Thou shalt square dance only for the fun which thee will find in it.
- 2) Thou shalt not be a snob, considering thyself too good to dance with any and all, sitting out the mixer or leaving a square lest thou be required to dance with those whom thou deemest unworthy of thy talents, for the gods of retribution are zealous gods, and will visit their mischief upon thee, and thou will be the one to goof the square.
- 3) Thou shalt not forget that thou wert once a beginner.
- 4) Thou shalt be exuberant, but shalt act thy age. Do not offend others by the high flung legs and out-flared skirts.
- 5) Thou shalt go abroad and dance to other callers so that thy opinions expressed as to the merit of this one and that one are based on fact.
- 6) Thou shalt not let the stranger in thy midst sit on the sidelines and cool his heels, and not fail to speak to him.
- 7) Thou shalt bathe diligently that the sweet aroma of soap and shaving lotion may assail the nostrils of thy associates, leaving the more earthly smells to the farmyard.
- 8) Thou shalt take care that the words of thy mouth are not scented with garlic or beer.
- 9) Thou shalt honor thy club and give it thy loyalty, for if thou canst not do this, it were better to separate thyself from it and join thyself to another whose methods, members and caller are more to thy liking.
- 10) Thou shalt not kill thy club with bickering and fault finding.

A right and left around the ring, while the roosters crow and the birdies sing.



All join hands and circle to the south, get a little moonshine in your mouth.



All join hands and circle wide, spread right out like an old cowhide.



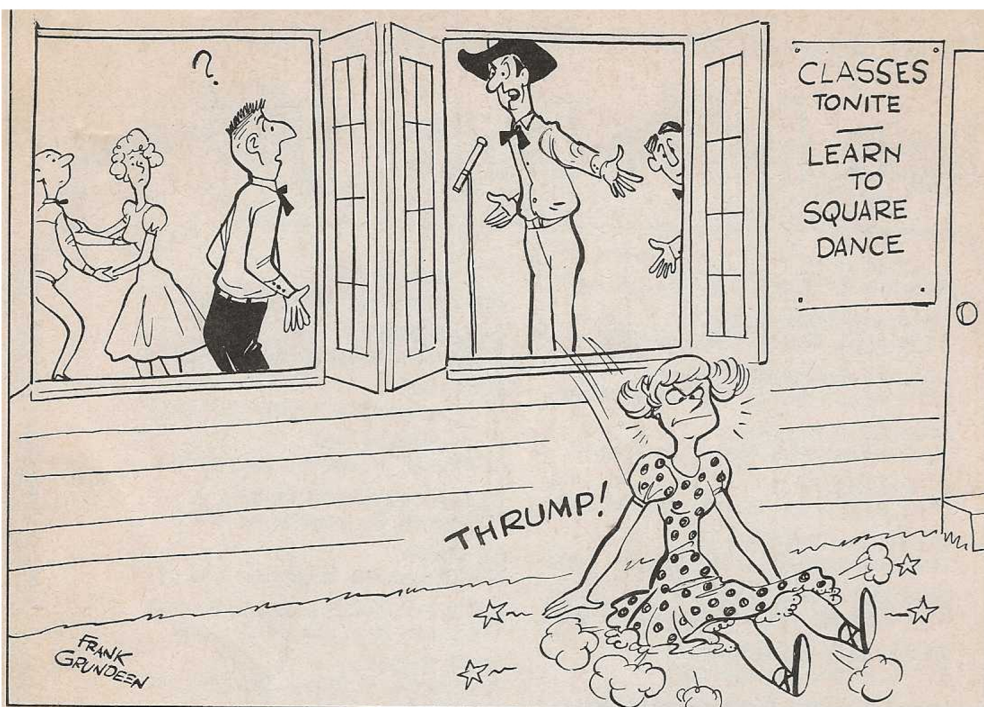
All join hands in a great big ring, circle round and round with the dear little thing.



All the way over, back with pride, When you're through we'll take a ride.



Allemande left with the corner maid, meet your own and promenade



"Jones! Stop steering your partner in the wrong direction."

SEW ON & SEW FORTH

By Karen Reichardt
www.squaredancesewing.com



Any Size Crochet Sweater

This little sweater will keep your shoulders and back warm. Wear it for the first tip until the hall warms up. An easy and quick project for beginner or advanced. It is a good sweater for dancing because you can move in it. These sweaters make great raffle prizes.

APPROXIMATE SIZES: Small 9-10, Medium 12-14, Large 16-18

MATERIALS: Approx. 4 Skeins Worsted weight yarn & Crochet hook H.

GAUGE: 10 double crochet (dc) equals 3 inches & 5 rows equals 3 inches. The gauge is very flexible with this style because it is worked from the top down, so it can be adjusted to fit while it is being made.

YOKE: Starting at the neck edge chain (ch) 64 loosely to measure about 20 inches. Don't count the loop on the hook. This chain will be the neck line.

ROW 1: Double crochet (dc) in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each of the next 10 ch.

In the 11th ch work two dc, ch one & work two dc - this is a double increase.

dc in each of the next 8 ch - work double increase in the 9th.

dc in each of the next 18 ch - work double increase in the 19th.

dc in each of the next 8 ch - work double increase in the 9th.

dc in each of the next 12 ch.

ROW 2: Chain 2, dc in the 2nd dc, dc in each of the next dc until you get to the single chain on the corner.

In the single chain work, one double crochet, chain one, and one double crochet. This is a single increase.

Finish the row with single increase on the corners in the single chains.

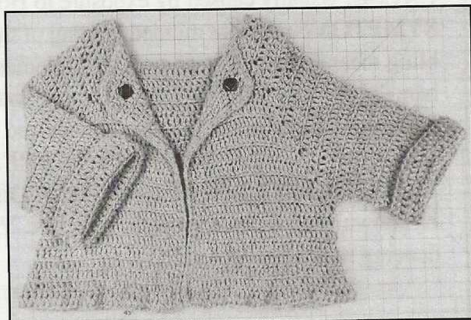
ROW 3: ch 2, dc in 2nd dc, dc across. Work double increase on corners.

ROW 4 & all even numbered rows: Work single increase on corners.

ROW 5 & all odd numbered rows: Work double increase on corners.

Size: Small stop after row 12, Medium after row 14, Large after row 16.

BODICE: All sizes - ch 2,



dc across until you get to the corner. Double crochet in the single chain of this corner and the next corner at the same time. This forms the underarm. Work dc across the back until you get to the next corner. Double crochet in this single chain and the next corner single chain at the same time. This forms the other underarm. At this point try on the sweater.

If the arm holes are not loose enough take out the work back to the first corner and add more rows until it is the size desired. This way it can be adjusted for different gauges and sizes.

NEXT ROWS: ch 2, dc across - Work the next rows in the same way until you get to waist length. This is a good place to stop for square dance sweaters.

LONG LENGTH: Increase 2 dc, at the under the arm area, every third row, until the sweater is as long as you want.

SLEEVES: Starting at the underarm, pull a loop through the overlapping chains. Chain 2, work double crochet around the arm hole. Chain together at underarm.

ROW 2: ch 2, reverse direction, dc around, chain together at underarm

ROW 3: ch 2, reverse direction, skip first dc, dc around, skip last dc, ch together

ROW 4 & 5: ch 2, reverse direction, dc in all stitches, ch together

ROW 6: work like row 3. Decrease every third row until the sleeves are as long as desired. Reversing direction, at the under arm, while going around the sleeves makes the pattern come out better and match the sweater body. Cuffs are easy to make, just remember not to decrease in the cuff area.

EDGING: Single crochet, half-double crochet, or shell stitch around the edges if desired.

NOTES: This quick and easy sweater can be customized to any size. Different types of yarn and different gauges change the look. Try folding back the corners at the neck line to form a lapel and hold them in place with decorative buttons. Working with two colors of sport weight yarn held together and worked as one gives a tweed effect. Or try worsted weight yarn worked together with a different colored crochet thread. Make a special one for each dress. This simple pattern has a lot of possibilities.

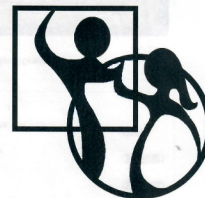
How about a new "old call": "Curlique"

From (opposite sex) Facing Dancers.

Place right hands forward, Men palm out. Ladies palm in, join hands to make an arch; exchange places, men turn left 1/4 to the right, as Ladies turn 3/4 to the left under the arch.

Ends in a right-hand mini wave.

Equivalent to Touch1/4



Cream Cheese Mashed Potatoes

8 pounds russet potatoes
1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup butter, melted
2 tsp salt
3/4 tsp pepper
1/4 cup finely chopped green onions

Peel and cube potatoes. In a large stockpot; add water to cover. Bring to a boil; reduce heat; cook uncovered until tender, 12-15 minutes. Drain. With a mixer, beat cream cheese, butter, salt and pepper until smooth. Add potatoes; beat just until light and fluffy. Sprinkle with onions.

AMERICAN CALLERS' ASSOC. VIEWPOINTS



By Patrick Demerath

Happy St. Patrick's Day To Square Dancers

The American Callers' Association in its attempt to be of service to all callers, dancers, and associations has provided current, timely, and effective information on new dancer recruitment, winning ways to retain club dancers, and pitfalls that drive square dancers away from 2000 to the Present. ACA really appreciates the positive comments, encouragement to continue, and contributions from callers and dancers all over North America and abroad to continue these initiatives. ACA will continue to provide information that will help the square dance community recruit, retain and retrieve square dancers as well as encourage the dancers to speak out on the cumbersome dance programs.

History alleges that St. Patrick lived in the 5th Century and was either from Scotland or England. He was kidnapped by pirates from Ireland where he was enslaved and grew up. Later he escaped and went home where he entered the seminary and was ordained priest. He returned to Ireland and ultimately converted the Irish people to Christianity. Historically, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated as a special religious holiday in Ireland. The current way that St. Patrick's Day is celebrated with all the green and parties was started in Boston, Massachusetts. What is admirable about St. Patrick? He feared for his life, daily defined courage as acting in the face of danger.

What does this have to do with Square Dancing? Often square dancers are very hesitant to invite good people to square dancing for fear of being told no and personally feel for being rejected. One partial comforting solution to this is to bring up at club meetings that the person saying no is not rejecting the square dancer, but is not interested in square dancing. Therefore: "The Do not Take it Personally" syndrome fits here. If we read professional SALES books or journals, the authors argue that 90% of sales come on the 5th request. The lessons of both are to act in the face of fear and rejection and ask people several times over periods of time to visit a square dance. When a person agrees, the communication of welcome must come from the dancers and the caller to the visitor. Make them feel that they are at a St. Patrick's Day party regardless of the month. ACA advocates that square dancing has the potential to be of interest to all visitors and does not have to fail if we all focus on the visitors' needs and preferences.

One might say St. Patrick focused on the positive side of his mission and we as square dancers can focus on a positive side of Square Dancing.

Who are the modern St. Patrick's?

- Square dancers who have helped support church activities and entertained the infirmed.

