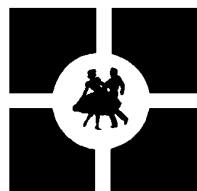


METRO MATTERS

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STARDUSTERS 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Stardusters celebrated thirty wonderful years of square dancing on November 25, 2000. They had decorated the hall at South Woodside Community Centre in their trademark royal blue and white and, of course, many dancers were wearing one of the versions of their beautiful club costume. Around the walls were carefully compiled lists of all the club and class members for each of their thirty years interspersed with pictures and other memorabilia. Kerry Fletcher included in his calling some favorite singing calls from past years to help us remember old friends and happy memories. It was delightful to find the hall filled with current and past club members and many visitors come to reminisce and congratulate.

Here are a few bits of history gleaned during the dance. Benny Slade founded the club thirty years ago. As Benny's eyesight failed, John Essex took over the calling. Later Stu Brink, then Mark Savage and Wade Savage called for the club. Gerry O'Hara called for them while he was in Halifax. Kerry took over in 1991 and has already been the longest serving caller with no end in sight. By the way, Kerry himself is celebrating 25 years of calling.

For many years the Stardusters' special dance was the Bean Bash with its delicious meal of beans and brown bread. Norma Slade originated this tradition. In the early years (when our winters were colder), this event was also accompanied by dancing on the ice or in the snow during Dartmouth's winter carnival. For participating in this chilly event, dancers earned either a skaters badge or a penguin badge. How many readers have one of those tucked away?

During the evening, mementos were presented to the current members who have been dancing more than 14 years with the club. They included: Benny Slade (30 years), Fran O'Leary (30 years), Silver and Edith Allan (29 years), Junior and Pauline Arsenault (24 years), Ron and Dot Connell (22 years), Leonard and Audrey Pride (21 Years), Frank and Darlene Higgins (20 years), Bill and Jean Mills (17 years) and Don and Marion McCormack (16 years).

According to the statisticians, 655 individuals have been registered as Starduster Dancers since 1969. A whopping 1810 person-years of dancing can be allocated to Starduster members. Congratulations and best wishes for many more successful years.

WEB SITE INFO

Please note that Metro's Web Site has been discontinued in favour of the Federation's Web site at <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/SRDFNS/>

IN MEMORY OF MARGIE EDMONDS

On December 24, 2000 at home in Waverley, Nova Scotia Margaret (Margie) A. Edmonds, surrounded by her family, passed away after a short illness. Margie was a member of various social clubs and in particular those in the dancing world. She and Tim danced for many years with Scotia Dancers and her home was the setting of many, many "wonderful pig roasts". They also danced with Fun Time Rounds where she would often remind us that the music and dancers were just "wonderful".

Margie obtained her silver medal in ballroom dancing and enjoyed a variety of hobbies such as gardening, knitting, bridge and of course her wonderful doll collection. You see, no matter where you met Margie, when asked how she was or how she was enjoying the evening, she would reply "I'm wonderful" or "everything is just wonderful", even if it wasn't.

Margie loved to laugh, dance, party, tell stories and enjoy a cup of cheer. But most of all she treasured her family, grandchildren and friends. She was an exceptional lady who had a kind word for everyone, and was a true dance ambassador for she loved dancing and promoted it wherever she went. Margie also had a deep respect and love of nature and was an accomplished traveler. She and Tim were well known for their hospitality.

Her friendship, sense of humor, smiling face, and gracious manner will forever be a part of each and every one of us who had the privilege of knowing and loving her. She will be sadly missed by all.

METRO NEEDS YOU!

As the tide ebbs and flows, so does the number of dancers participating in Metro Association as Club Representatives or Executive Members. We are currently at a low ebb and we badly need some new volunteers. Metro Association is one of the links in the fantastic chain that connects square dancers around the world. If we allow Metro to become a weak link then our part of the square dance world will be diminished.

Participating in Metro Association only requires attendance at 3 meetings each year and some liaison activity between the Association and your club. Even the Executive positions are relatively undemanding. Mostly they require some legwork to organize the January Jig, the Heart Fund Dance and the Summer Dances. If you want these events to continue, then please consider attending our next meeting at 2:00 pm on January 14th at Saint Mary's University in MM310.

CHANGES IN VENUE

WE'RE MOVING!!!!!! "Fun Time Rounds" is pleased to announce that we are moving to a new central location. Our new home on Monday nights will be the Bloomfield Center in Halifax. Our first night of Round Dancing will commence on Jan. 8th, 2001 at 8 pm. If anyone is interested in Round Dance lessons, please contact Larry & Marg Clark at (902)-860-0886. A possibility exists to teach Rounds from 7 to 8 PM.

In case you missed it and haven't been out to visit this fall, please note that four other clubs changed their dance location in September. Scotia Dancers are now at Sackville Heights Junior High (off Sackville Drive). Lake City Swingers and Coordinators are now at North Woodside Community Centre, 230 Pleasant Street, Dartmouth. Fun Squares are now dancing across the street from the Cole Harbour Activity Centre in the old Mounties' Building, which is now labeled "The Centre" and is part of HRM Recreation.

CLOTHES FOR SALE

Large man's square dance attire for sale. Call Marg Yorke at 443-0542.

METRO ACTIVITY CALENDAR -- JANUARY TO MAY 2001

January 6 -- Metro Association January Jig, Bedford Junior High

January 18 -- Stardusters Caribbean Theme Night, South Woodside Community Centre

February 12 through 16 -- Valentine Dances at most clubs

February 23 -- Metro Association Heart Fund Dance, Bedford Junior High School

Feb 28 -- Scotia Dancers Sadie Hawkins Dance, Sackville Heights Junior High School

Mar 10 -- Rag Rounds & Dancing Shadows Shindig 2001, Edgett Dance Space,
3667 Strawberry Hill, Halifax, Hilton MacIntosh and Alex Ritchie

March 16 & 17 -- 11th Annual 50/50 Dance with a Touch of the Irish, Lions Hall, Lakeside
Mostly Plus and Phase II-IV Rounds, Dottie Welch and John & Valerie Pinks

March 24 -- Fun Squares Apple Crisp Dance, Bruce and Mark Savage

April 21 -- Scotia Dancers Spring Fling, C. P. Allen High School, Bedford
Nelson Labor and Alex Ritchie

April 28 & 29 ANSSRDT workshop and meeting in Halifax

May 5 -- Fun Time Parade of Rounds, Bedford Junior High. Teachers for the day will be
John & Valerie Pinks, Larry & Marg Clark, and Wendell & Bev Carroll

May 7 -- Coordinators Sail Into Summer Plus Dance, North Woodside Community Centre

FEDERATION FESTIVAL IN THE VALLEY

July 20 and 21 Federation Festival 2001 at Old Orchard Inn

MARITIME CONVENTION COMING TO HALIFAX

Next November 2-3 the 32nd Maritime Square and Round Dance Convention will be held in Halifax at the Westin Nova Scotian. Since this convention cycles through the three Maritime provinces, this is a once in every 3 years opportunity to attend. Don't miss it!

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE 2002 NATIONAL IN SAINT JOHN?

Warning! Hotel rooms in Saint John are fast disappearing for the week of July 18 to 20, 2002. Don't delay any longer! If you have not already done so, make your reservations for our next Canadian National now. The closest hotels are already full, so don't wait or you will find yourselves "out in the sticks".

CALLERLAB EMPHASIS CALLS

Basic -- Half Sashay

Jon Jones is on a worldwide campaign to increase the use of the call “Half Sashay” and simultaneously change the name “Rollaway with a Half-sashay” to just “Rollaway”. Please note that the difference between them is the rolling action. In both cases the dancer on the right side of the couple moves to the left side of the couple by passing in front of the other dancer. In “Half Sashay” the exchange is accomplished by sidestepping across without turning around. In “Rollaway” the right side dancer does a complete counter-clockwise turn as he/she crosses in front. Since the end result is the same, you may be wondering why we need two moves. The two actions allow the caller to choose the one with the body flow best suited to the situation and thus create a smoother dance.

Mainstream -- Split Circulate

Many callers shy away from this move because it tends to cause breakdowns. Dancers, please take a moment to understand the implications of the term “split”. This word means you should divide the formation into two separate boxes of four dancers. Then do your circulate within that box of four dancers. Please see the circulate paths shown below.

For two parallel right-hand waves, divide the formation into two boxes and circulate within your box. In this case, those facing out would turn half to the right to take the next position and end facing in. Those facing in would walk straight across into the next position to end facing out.

For columns, the action is the same as a Column Circulate for all dancers except the two facing into the very centre. Those two must not cross the centre line because the “Split” divided the column into two boxes. Those two must therefore turn half around towards the centre to end in the other column facing out.

The term Box Circulate is supposed to be used when the caller wants just four dancers to be active, usually in the centre of the set. For example, Heads Touch $\frac{1}{4}$ and those four Box Circulate.

By the way, it is the circulate paths you are following, not necessarily a dancer’s back. It is possible to circulate even though someone is coming towards you.

Plus -- Three-quarter Tag the Line

The definition of three-quarter Tag the line says: “Each dancer turns individually to face the centre of the line and walks forward passing right shoulders with oncoming dancers. Lead dancers pass by two dancers and end facing out. Trailing dancers pass by one dancer and step to a right-hand Ocean Wave in the centre of the set.”

There are two common errors here. One is for the trailing dancers to neglect to stop at the Ocean Wave. The other is for the lead dancers to turn around or trade with each other. Please carefully note the ending formation and listen to the caller for the next action.