

Delegates Report to the BOD April 2, 2016

Region 9 Thompson-Shuswap Square & Round Dance Association currently has 7 member clubs.

These clubs are; Bee Jay Dancers Mainstream – Kamloops, Kamloops Square Dancers Plus – Kamloops, Thompson Valley Stars, Westcoast , Mainstream and Plus – Kamloops and Chase, Gold Classic Dancers, Round – Chase, Salmon Arm Squares , Mainstream – Salmon Arm, Salmon Arm Round Dance Club – Salmon Arm and Canoe and the Ta’Lana Twirlers, Mainstream – Blind Bay. We have approximately 175 members including callers, cuers and leaders.

Most clubs have reported a reduced level of activity over the past few months – most dance night attendance is down, in part because of snowbirds being away. The important thing is that all those in attendance are still having fun.

The only successful new dancer program in this region belongs to the Thompson Valley Stars who teach the Westcoast program to 17 new dancers. The Ta’ Lana Twirlers have 2 new dancers in their Mainstream Program.

Our Association Dances have been averaging 4 squares since the first dance in October which is down from the previous few years. This can likely be attributed to our overall numbers being down.

Region 9 has some significant Club dances happening over the next few months that are well worth attending:

The 33rd Annual “**Easter Bunny Hop**”, Monday March 28, 2016, featuring Caller/Cuer Murray Few of Edmonton, AB.
Presented by the Ta’Lana Twirlers, this year has a new event – an afternoon Plus Dance

Dance into Spring with the 17th Annual “**Buttercup Ball**”, **Sunday** April 3, 2016, presented by the Gold Classic Dancers Round Dance Club. This event has a Pot Luck Dinner prior to the Dance and features a panel of Cuers.

“**Mayfest 2016**”, Saturday May 7, 2016, returns to Kamloops where it all began 37 years ago. This may be the last Mayfest dependent on interest and costs. Featured Caller is Steve Edlund of Surrey B.C and featured Cueur is Mariann Sanford of Blind Bay, BC. The program includes a Plus Dance with Rounds, possibly an “A” level dance (if the interest is there), a potluck supper and an evening mainstream with Rounds.

For the second year Region 9 presents “**Chase the Fun Square and Round Dance Weekend**” to be held in Chase BC on June 17, 18 & 19, 2016. This event schedule includes a Friday evening mainstream and round dance hosted by a panel of callers and cuers. Saturday will have a morning Round dance, an afternoon Mainstream workshop and an afternoon Plus dance with rounds.

The main event – the Saturday night Mainstream dance will see the return of our first year stars: Caller Steve Edlund and Cuers Mariann Sanford and Sandy Meyer.

Sunday morning will feature a Trail out dance with a panel of callers and cuers.

Another Special Event: This year Regions 3 and 9 are co-sponsoring a “**Chase the Fun**” **Caller and Cuer School** immediately following the Chase the Fun event. This school will feature Caller Instructor Garry Dodds and Cuer Instructor Pat Zeeman, of Victoria BC. This program will run from Sunday evening June 19 to Friday afternoon June 24th, 2016.

There is, of course, a huge cast and crew across the Region putting these events together. “Thank You” to all. As everyone knows, without volunteers these events could not happen.

We have been asked, by the Thompson-Shuswap Square and Round Dance Association Executive and Club Representatives, to express concerns regarding the ongoing costs to the BC Federation and to the general effectiveness of the Social Media Campaign (facebook and Twitter) advertising and the effectiveness of the Revitalization Committee. Is there any indication that these programs work in getting us new members?

Respectfully submitted
Bill & Jean Wood
Delegates, Region 9