

## OSRDA News

This being the final issue of “Well Rounded Squares” some comment is called for.

Since Jean & Bill Wood started the original presentation of their vision for a publication to keep dancers informed of events in Region 9 and beyond. The magazine was welcomed with open arms. Most of us were eager to send information to be included in each issue but, as is normal with human beings we became less interested and eager to the point where Jean more or less had to keep prompting us to send her any information. This malaise is what has led Jean & Bill to suspend any further issues after this one. Much pertinent information regarding square, round, Clog and other forms of dance, has been presented to us.

If you hear about Contra Dancing In your area check it out, you might like it.

Contra is similar to square dancing but that it's not required to have a partner and there's no need for special clothing or shoes. No experience is necessary and you don't need to take lessons to dance contra.

Contra is a great way to dance in today's busy world. Lessons don't always fit in a schedule that balances work, family & recreation time. That's where Contra comes in--it brings family & friends together in a safe, healthy and active environment for socializing and exercise. The steps are explained at the beginning of each dance so experienced dancers and novices alike know what moves are involved. If nothing else, it's great fun!"

It's very possible that many in the OSRDA membership don't know about Contra Dancing and the fun to be had participating in it.

The Contra Dance is a folk dance made up of long lines of couples who react to the commands of a caller, similar to square dancing. In fact, it's considered a forerunner to the square dance.

It has mixed origins, incorporating English country dance, Scottish country dance and French dance styles in the 17th century. The French component was the Contre danse Francaise.

The annual OSRDA Freshman Frolic date is May 11<sup>th</sup>. 2019 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Vernon.

Panel of Callers & Cuers MC is Allan Peterson

There is a MS workshop 10:30 – 12:30 Moves by definition.

Pre Rounds 2:00 – 2:30 MS Dance 2:30 – 4:30 Rounds between tips.

**Novice callers welcome. If you can't do patter just do singing calls.**

I encourage all dancers to check out the BC 2019 Festival, July 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> with a trail in Dance on the 10<sup>th</sup> and trail out on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The trail out dance is organized by Westsyde Squares. The club will receive the profits from this dance. This is a full festival covering Square, Round, Clogging, Contra and Line dancing. The Festival is co-sponsored by our Region and Thompson Shuswap Region. Check it out, it will be a lot of fun and great socializing. We do need more volunteers. Ask your club reps or myself regarding this festival.

Points to ponder.

So, what's right with square dancing?

Every person might have a different way that square dancing appeals to him or her:

- o Social activity with friends
- o Community
- o Exercise
- o Mental stimulation, brain exercise
- o Respite from the anxiety in the world today

There are so many ways square dancing is the right activity right now. We all know that people would love this activity if they tried it. The call for action is now. Get the whole club involved. Make it fun. Seek out and find success stories from other clubs and callers. There is a wealth of information on the Internet on marketing

ideas;  
however, resources are useless without action. Inspire and motivate your club to take action. Keep emphasizing all the reasons why square dancing is right for everyone. Your classes will be more successful, your club will grow, and square dancing will continue to be the best entertainment for people all over the world.

Word of mouth is one of the best ways to recruit new dancers and word of mouth used negatively can remove new dancers.

Remember, We need them more than they need us. Dancers and their clubs must and need to support each other otherwise we will create our own demise.

"When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor. Its to enjoy each step along the way.

I request that all of you to look ahead to the AGM in October as to replacing myself as the Chair of the OSRDA with a younger more energetic person.

It is with much regret that we did not support the "Well Rounded Squares" to the extent that we should have. Thank you Jean and Bill for all that you have done in supporting the various forms of dance in Region 3. (OSRDA)

Bill Morey  
Chair OSRDA.