

BC Fed AGM Report for Region 8
UVISDA (Upper Vancouver Island Square and Round Dance Ass'n)

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As of writing, the region has:

Stardusters (Powell River).	Appx members	40 ,	plus paid new class	8
Amalgamaters (Nanaimo)		38		2
Ocean Waves (Courtenay)		46		9
Ripple Rockets (Campbell River)		23		2
Island Gems (Nanaimo)		?		?

Clubs report weekly or bi-weekly dances with about 2-4 squares. Like everywhere, recruitment is always challenging and we share creative ideas on how to generate interest in square dancing. For example, Powell River is trying first Sat community dances (something like Brent Mawdsley's First Friday dances in the city), where people can come with no experience and try, and hopefully morph into the next lesson set. Membership is always a challenge, though and no club at present feels as solid as they would like to be. Ripple Rockets is approaching BC Fed about grant ideas to support their club, which is struggling financially.

Three clubs have annual weekend festivals, and those were all well attended again this year with upwards of 50 to 70 dancers at each of the Campbell River Blast Off, Courtenay Catch the Wave, and Stardusters Across the Pond Weekends. UVISDA promotes a dance every 3 months or so, centrally now in Nanoose BC, where upper and lower Island dancers can reach. These dances usually have 5-8 squares attending. Last year UVISDA made an attempt to collaborate with the Old Time Fiddlers for an evening, which was limited success, but provided learning. One of the best things about UVISDA is it keeps the region's clubs connected, so that dates don't overlap, and dances are spread evenly across days, weeks and months. This enables dancers to travel an hour or so and be able to dance multiple times a month at different locations with different clubs.

The Region is looking forward to helping support the hosting of the 2027 Round Dance BC Prov Mini Festival next July.