

August 2016

Hot Tips

HOTLANTA SQUARES

Oh Canada!

MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP



T O R O N T O 2 0 1 6

Starting on Canada Day (July 1st) and ending on Independence Day (July 4th) the 33rd annual IAGSDC convention hosted by Toronto's Triangle Squares was a smashing success. Among 852 registered attendees, Hotlanta Squares was well represented with over 40 official members in attendance and at least a dozen more former or inactive members also attending.

The location for this year's event was the elegant **Fairmont Royal York Hotel** in the heart of downtown Toronto, across the street from the Union Railroad Terminal. It's where Queen Elizabeth has stayed while visiting Toronto and is a site fit for a queen, or a whole building full.

Callers for the event were Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Tim Crawford, Dayle Hodge, Mike Kellogg, Osamu Miyabe, Don Moger, Anne Uebelacker and Joe Uebelacker. Contra dances were also included and were called by Bev Bernbaum, Kris Jensen, and Andy Shore. Specialty tips included Progressive Squares, Memorial Tip, Women's Tip, Millennial Tip, Married Tip, Kilt Tip, Bear Tip, Leather Tip, Underpants Tip, Moonshine Tip, Medallion Tip and Pop Tip.

The Fun Badge Tour, held early Sunday morning, featured dance stops at Church & Wellesley in the "Gay Village", The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto City Hall, Yonge-Dundas Square and Sugar Beach. The weather was perfect and everything went off without a hitch.

Some of our members marched in the Toronto Pride Parade which occurred

Hotlanta Squares well-represented at IAGSDC Convention in Toronto

by Edmond Campbell



the same weekend as the convention. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also marched in the parade. Many members also enjoyed side trips to Niagara Falls, Ottawa and Montreal, among other destinations. Everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time and many are already planning a trip to Palm Springs, CA for next year's convention.

Important Dates :

August 1, 2016
Mainstream classes begin
Plus classes begin

August 2, 2016
Advanced classes begin
Challenge classes begin

August 27, 2016
Bowling Night (Non-dancing event) at Comet Pub and Lanes

September 14, 2016
PALS Bingo
Fundraiser

September 24, 2016
Sweet September Dance with Pam Courts

NEW



Consistency Award

See page 5
For details

HOTLANTA SQUARES

More photos from Toronto



MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP
TORONTO 2016



July Open Houses Kick Off New Mainstream Class

By Edmond Campbell

Not one, not two, but three consecutive open house nights were held on July 11th, July 18th and July 25th. On July 11th, at the first open house, 10 new prospective dancers showed up. Another five showed up on July 18th and one additional dancer showed up on July 25th. In addition to the new dancers, many former club members and inactive members have returned. We have had as many as five squares dancing at the open house events. Monday, August 1st marks the beginning of the new Mainstream and Plus classes and Tuesday, August 2nd marks the start of A1 and C1 classes.



- 3rd – Randy Morgan
- 7th – Ernest Gardner
- 11th – Mike Shagina
- 11th – Bob Haack
- 15th – Donna Brogan
- 17th – Beth Williams
- 23rd – Brad Bruner
- 24th – Cameron Synnstedt
- 26th – Carla Haack

- 28th – Anne Danner
- 28th – Debra Hanson
- 29th – Lloyd Werner
- 30th – Cindy Light



Caller's Corner

Movin' On Up

How to determine when you are ready to move up to the next dancing level

by Mike Shagina

Now that we are starting new classes at all levels I think it would be a good time to touch upon a touchy subject. "*When is it time to move up to the next dance level?*" I used to joke that there were 3 stages to learning a level in square dancing. The 1st stage is being a student and learning all the calls in that program. The 2nd stage is being able to dance that level with quick reaction times, making few mistakes, and being able to fix squares on the fly and keep dancing. The 3rd stage is doing all of that while flirting with everyone in the square at the same time. If you've reached stage 3, then you're ready to advance.

It is an important question since this is a hobby and not a strictly structured, regulated activity. Our philosophy is to be inclusive and not turn people away, so if someone wants to take the next level class (assuming they have completed the current level) we can't be telling people what they can and can't do. Some people learn extremely quickly, others need endless repetition for long periods of time, and everything in-between. But there are some common sense measures that should determine whether it's time to advance or not. Square dancing isn't an academic pursuit, you can't just learn by rote all the definitions to a call and call yourself a dancer. It has to be put into practice and danced. We practice calls in class, but when learning a call you get the most commonly used, straight forward, example of a call. Class time is limited and there's only so much that can be covered if you want to complete a class in a set time frame. The key to being a good dancer is going to dances, fly-ins, conventions and dancing to as many different callers as you can. It's not how many times you've taken a class, but how much floor time you've had putting it into practice on a regular basis.

So let me try to answer this question and this is all my opinion, you'll get a different answer from every person you ask.

Moving from Mainstream to Plus is a special case. People are always encouraged to take Plus as soon as possible because it's become the default level people are expected to dance.

A lot of clubs are Plus-only. Some clubs hold classes that go straight from intro to Plus over the course of a year.

The Mainstream only dancers at convention are usually such a small group that many people are advised to not attend convention unless they can dance Plus. Unless you feel completely lost dancing Mainstream, most everyone can go to Plus straight from Mainstream provided you retake Mainstream while starting Plus. The second time through will make much more sense and as you go through Plus you'll get more practice at full Mainstream and not have to wait 4 or 5 months until you do Recycle again.

Plus to Advanced is a different story. Taking Advanced or Challenge is voluntary. People spend many happy years dancing Mainstream and Plus without any inclination to learn more complicated material. Advanced adds roughly 90 more calls to your repertoire, some of them have multiple parts and are quite complex, and all of them build on skills you learn from dancing Mainstream and Plus. The best quality to have when starting Advanced is experience; having successfully danced Plus at numerous events. I think there are 2 things that make the Advanced level different and more difficult than Plus. The first is All Position Dancing (APD). Being able to execute calls from normal couples and when sashayed. The second is dancing as a "team". Doing your part of the call, waiting if necessary for others to complete their part, and then finishing the call together. This requires knowing all parts of the call, which apply to you, and how it all fits together.

Advanced to Challenge, to me, is a bigger leap than Plus to Advanced. It's definitely not for everybody. Everything I mentioned about Advanced applies, plus there are many new and complex calls to learn, a number of new formations, you have to dance with phantoms, but the real meat of Challenge is the concepts and there are quite a few. A concept is a rule that you apply to calls you already know that may change who you do the call with, where you circulate to, among other things. Many times it's a more puzzle solving than it is dancing, so if you enjoy that kind of thing then Challenge dancing may be for you, but it's a lot of work and a takes a real commitment, and for a lot of people it's more than what they got into square dancing for.

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So "When is it time to move up to the next level?"

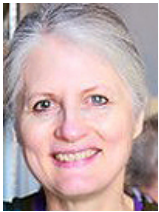
Ultimately you have to answer that question for yourself. Here are some more questions you may want to ask yourself. How much dancing have you done? Do you have trouble dancing to callers you haven't heard before? Can you spot when someone else in your square has made a mistake? Do you know when you've made a mistake? Square dancing should always be friendly and fun (my Prime Directive!) Move up too soon and it will be work. If you're willing to do the work, that's fine, just know what you're getting into. If you're not willing to put in the effort, then you're also making the experience for the other dancers not fun. You need a functioning square to see how things work and if someone can't follow the level-appropriate instructions, then it's not fair to the others who are there to learn. At the risk of being too blunt, let me put it this way. If you are a dancer who is often being corrected by the caller or other dancers, then you should not be thinking of taking the next level but repeating that class until this is no longer the case.

New HS Board for 2016-2017 Year

By Edmond Campbell

July of each year marks the beginning of a new year with regard to the Hotlanta Squares Board. The baton is passed from the president to the vice-president. New board members join returning board members to form a cohesive group to guide the club through the next year.

Here are the current Hotlanta Squares board members:



Clara Welch
President



Neil Kalin
Vice
President



Juel Veach
Treasurer



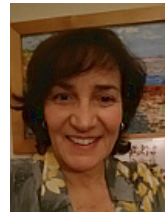
Anne Danner
Secretary



Saralyn Levine
Events
Coordinator



Edmond Campbell
Marketing
Coordinator



Michelle Monti
President
Emeritus

Consistency Award

...to be awarded to all members who achieve perfect attendance by Clara Welch



In addition to the fun of coming to dance or visit on Monday and/or Tuesday, seeing your friends, polishing your skills or learning completely new calls, helping new dancers learn or just helping the general overall operation of the club, you can also earn a consistency award to show your *ahmmm*, consistency.

Here is how it works:

On August 1st or 2nd, the first night of the contest, you must print your name legibly on the sign-up sheet. On the remaining nights just check your name off on the spreadsheet. For Monday night

dancers, you will need to attend August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, September 12, 19 and 26, October 4 and 11. (Note that there will be no dancing on Labor Day, Monday September 5th). For Tuesday night dancers, you will need to attend August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, September 13, 20 and 27, October 4 and 11. (We will also not be dancing on the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 6th.) If you dance on both Monday and Tuesday nights and have perfect attendance during this period, you will receive two awards.

Who is eligible for an award? Everyone. Dancers, non-dancers (usually spouses but anyone is welcome to hang out with us), Members and Non-members.

I hope we can have several winning the award together. Yay!!

Sweet September Dance

With Pam Courts *From Cincinnati, Ohio*



Saturday, September 24, 2016

7:00pm to 10:00pm

City of Light

**1379 Tullie Road NE,
Atlanta, GA 30329**

Members: \$8.00

Non-members: \$10.00

Non-dancing guests: Free

**HOTLANTA
SQUARES**

www.hotlantasquares.org