EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 1

December 2014

Editorial

Hello dance friends Here we go again, we see the letters flow again. (after the song from 1940)

Yes, time for the next newsletter. It is still increasing in size and to my opinion there are also more and more interesting subjects.

Both youth clubs from Germany and Sweden continued their appreciated contributions. The statistical overviews give more background on what they are doing.

For the first time (with some help of "Wuffi") we have an article from our dance friends in Japan. We knew that square dance is very much alive there and now we can read their numbers.

From Australia came through Mary Beerens a complete listing of all Clubs "down under" They also have set their conventions until 2017

The square dance school schedule as set up in Denmark is very interesting and I hope it is going to work. We all need new dancers.

Unfortunately Tomas Machalik had to apologize for not having a contribution to this newsletter.

In our own country the number of dancers and clubs are still declining. Our president Maarten Weijers told us at Winterwonderland (our Cristmas Party) that we could be well be under 200 dancers next year. He and his staff are looking into each and every possible way to stop this and turn it around to an increase. My new year's wish is that he will succeed

Corry and I wish you all a merry Christmas and a great 2015 in good health.

Happy dancing, Ron van Dijk Brandenburglaan 38 NL 4333 BZ Middelburg E mail: rvandijk@zeelandnet.nl







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BAASDC

Square dancing in the UK still thrives and has begun to level off with many clubs managing to attract new dancers, the challenge will be to keep them coming back and then to dance onto Mainstream/Plus. The weekend and holiday scene still thrives with many dancers planning their annual holidays around dance weekends. The Round dance scene again thrives but with no new clubs, like elsewhere we rely on new Callers and Cuers but struggle to find new ones. So that will be a challenge for the foreseeable future. Plans for the 2016 European Convention in Stratford-upon-Avon are forging ahead. The programme will be published soon once all the callers have agreed to attend.

Sadly we lost the editor of our magazine (who died in October) who also ran our web site, but we now have found a new web master and an Editor, so we hope to publish the magazine (Let's Square Dance) again very soon.

Our callers are proving to be very popular in mainland Europe so you can expect to see more brits dancing in Europe in 2015. I hope to visit Germany in March & September and Australia in April.I hope to attend the EAASDC 60th Birthday celebrations (if invited-Wuffi).

The BAASDC council has agreed to my plan to attract young dancers into Square dancing based on the system that Swedes use. I will keep you informed as my plans progress.

Keep smiling, John

DAASDC

Looking back from DAASDC's chair

2014 has been characterized by the European Convention. We have had a lot of preparations for this event, to meet the guidelines. We hope that we succeeded. In total more than 1000 dancers were gathered from near and far to the event. We jumped the start already on Thursday evening, where Johnny Preston visited us for an informal "Trail-in-Dance".

Camping facilities were offered just next to the exhibition center where the Convention took place. Many dancers took advantage of this, and several others booked local hotels, bed & breakfast and a like.

We had the great pleasure of welcoming 13 callers and 3 cuers entertaining us from the scenes. It was an amazing experience to walk around the five halls enjoying the dance. We also had some of the Danish clubcallers on stage to call the official trail-enddance. Their entertainment was highly appreciated by the dancers.

We have this tradition in Denmark that clubs take turns organizing national conventions, while DAASDC stands in the wings as hosts. It is entirely up to the sponsoring club to arrange square dance conventions in cooperation with DAASDC according to the stipulated guidelines. At this convention the collaboration was perfect and a great joy for all of us. A big thanks to "Hedens Square Dancers," who hosted the European Convention 2014 in Ikast, Denmark. THANK YOU to all the amazing people who attended the European Convention 2014: callers, cuers and dancers. You all participated in making this event a success. Now we are looking forward to the next European Convention in England in 2016.

Square Dancing on the School Schedule

The next upcoming task for DAASDC is to address Danish primary schools! The Danish government has adopted an educational reform, which requires that all students in primary schools should have more exercise and movement. The schools are allowed to use external trainers/coaches to support teaching. It is obvious that we are going into the schools to present our activity to them.

We already realize, that we will not make children and youngsters joining our clubs easily. Hence we have to promote Square Dancing to them in their premises. In Denmark most children and youth have endless opportunities to pass free time. Denmark has a centuries old tradition offering associate activities for all people at reasonable costs. Therefore it is a gift for us, that we can supplement schools with reasonable offerings within Square Dancing.

We do consider that Square Dancing on the schedule will stimulate the children's concentration and help them practicing spaciousness and navigation. We also believe that for school children square dancing is an important collaborative exercise that can supplement the general subjects. And not to forget square dancing is movement set to music.

Our plan is to turn to schools and school boards in areas where we have callers who will participate in this project.

In DAASDC we hope that this will turn out as a "pilot project" that will – in time – develop for the joy of all of us ... and our children.

Best regards Lotte Vangsgaard, President, DAASDC

JAPAN

Square Dance in JAPAN

President, Japan Square Dance Association (JSDA) Kazusuke Okiyoshi

Now, let me tell you some about square dance style in Japan through the activities conducted by the Japan Square Dance Association (JSDA) in this opportunity.

In June, this year of 2014, Tatsuzo Takase retired at his age of 85 after the 29 years' great achievement in tripling the membership during his presidency. Then, I was elected as successor of president of JSDA.

Japan Square Dance Association (JSDA)

The Association originated as the All-Japan Square Dance Callers Council, which was formed in 1966, and developed into JSDA in 1980 as a non-juridical or voluntary organization. His Prince Mikasanomiya Highness Takahito supported the founding of JSDA and served as the Governor for 18 years from 1982 to 2000 to provide instrumental action for square dancing With various supports by His activities. Highness, JSDA aimed to contribute to quality, healthy lives of people by spreading square dance as lifelong sports/recreation.

According to this background, the Japanese government approved JSDA to be an entity to receive a tax deduction benefit for the specified mission of contributing to society and the general public by promoting square dancing as a Japanese General Incorporated Association on April 1, 2010.

JSDA Membership Statistics

When JSDA was founded in 1980, it had 103 square dance clubs with 2,195 members. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, it is growing into 534 clubs and 14,520 memberships at April 1, 2014, including square dancers, square dance callers, and round dance cuers / instructors from all over Japan. Membership ratio of Female/Male is shown in Figure 3.

Please refer our home page. http://www.squaredance.or.jp/english/

Activities conducted by JSDA

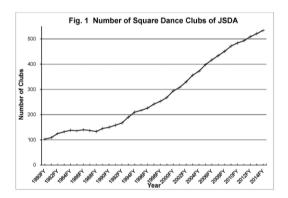
JSDA follows the Program Lists defined by CALLERLAB, and adopts JSDA Program Policy to adapt CALLERLAB Program Policy. In addition, according to the Program Policy Initiative by CALLERLAB, JSDA established "Community 25 Program" which consists of twentyfive movements out of the Basic Program - Part 1 in 2008. "Community 25 Program" is developed and served to various occasions such as one night stands and relatively short-period classes to enjoy square dancing.

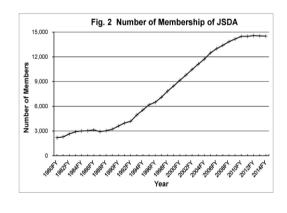
JSDA conducts and supports various schools, workshops, clinics to improve the qualities and skills needed to callers, instructors, cuers, dancers and leaders that it is the most important for spreading square dance to the general public.

All Japan Square Dance Convention

JSDA celebrated the 50th All Japan Square Dance Convention in Tokyo in August, 2011 with around 2,000 dancers not only from all over Japan but from Australia, China, Taiwan and a few representatives from overseas square dance organizations including CALLERLAB as VIPs. The Ghost Riders Band from US was also invited (Figure 4).

Now and hereafter, we would like to contribute for peace through the spread of Square Dance in cooperation with related foreign organizations and interchange with lover of the Square Dance.





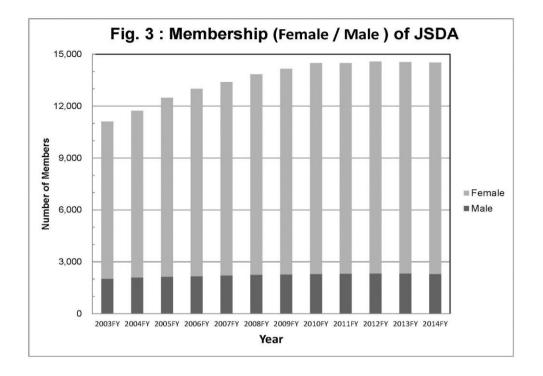


Fig. 4 50th All Japan Square Dance Convention in Tokyo, August, 2011



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN SQUARE DANCING CLUBS https://eaasdc.eu



EAASDC – What has happened in 2014!

- In 2014 EAASDC has lost 4 clubs but gained 12 new ones which leads to a total of 540 member clubs spread over Austria (7), Belgium (1), France (3), Liechtenstein (1), Netherlands (3), Russia (5), Slovenia (1), Switzerland (8) and Germany (511).
- 2. We have reached a number of 43 staffmembers who are doing great volunteer work for the EAASDC.
- Legal basics have been applied for by developing and implementing various bylaws.
- 4. New IT-software has been bought to assist in our office and financial work.

- 5. Our "EAASDC first aid team" has started to provide first aid support at Club-Specials for our member-clubs.
- 6. A "EAASDC hearing aid team" has been introduced (separate article).
- We have implemented a financial fund to support activities of EAASDC and its members for Square Dance enhancements.
- 8. In October we started our first projects in some schools. Volunteers, who attended our seminars with teaching methods, provide 2 hours a week of day care along with Contra, Mixers and Square Dance intros. Our goal is to gain kids and their parents for our Square Dance scene thru these activities.
- 9. The EAASDC youth team has started to develop ideas and projects for young people already dancing in our clubs as well as attract new youth to come to us. For marketing purposes they opened a EAASDC youth side at Facebook, have taped a video with youth squares to publish, danced in a show on German TV and will provide youth dance-groups for special "youth-demos".
- The EAASDC "lifetime honorary membership" as recognition of special contribution was presented to Eberhard and Traudel Walz for the successful start and development of Square Dance in Russia (separate article)
- 11. EAASDC sponsored a youth-special in Stuttgart (separate article)
- The Beaux & Belles, one of three still existing founding members of EAASDC, celebrated its 60th anniversary on 27. Sept. 2014 and therefore received the "EAASDC Certificate of Achievement".
- EAASDC will celebrate its 60th anniversary 4.-6. September 2015 in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, and invites all dancers to come and join us. (separate flyer and qrcode)

We still have lots of ideas and we will work tireless and with all the positive energy of our big family towards an exciting Square Dance future. We know it's worth it.

In this sense I wish everybody relaxing and

harmonious holidays and many more new years with great ideas, good health, a lot of positive energy, the necessary calmness and the so important dose of humor for a hearty laugh from time to time.

Merry x-mas and a Happy New Year! Wolfgang "Wuffi" Daiss President EAASDC

qr code EAA APP



NVSD

Dear friends,

When I wrote my article for 2013 on the way home from the 60th anniversary of the BAASDC, I mentioned that 2014 must be the year of change; otherwise Square- and Round dancing would soon come to a stop... well, it didn't come that far, but unfortunately we did not have any changes either...

And again we lost a club. Not a member of the NVSD but it was a club that was active with Square dancing. The good news is: a new Rounddance club was founded and it became member of the NVSD. It is situated in Twello, not far from the Dutch-German border. Currently we have 14 clubs (NVSD and non-NVSD). Some Square, some Round and some clubs that are dancing Squares and Rounds.

We had some highlights this year: We started with the New Years Party, held by the Coast Riders who celebrated their 35th anniversary. Furthermore we had the introduction to Real Hexagon Square dancing.

Last but not least we had the Callers Anniversary party of 70 years caller-experience (40 years Wil Stans & 30 years Maarten Weijers). At this dance, Wil Stans received a Royal decoration for his 40 years of calling & voluntary work and is today "Member of the order of Orange-Nassau".

When looking at 2015; we will have a goal to make Square- and Round dancing known to the general public. Last year, Tommy Hansson mentioned the following sentence in the 2013 Newsletter: If you are not visible, you don't exist. This is what we have as goal for the upcoming year. We really need to stop the decrease of dancers. I know this will take several years but we have to go through this process.

During the European Convention in Ikast, some dancers came to me with the question if we have any dances scheduled during the summer holiday. As no club is dancing during July and August, we currently don't have any dances. We are looking into the possibilities to organize a dance in August but so far no guarantees....

If you are planning a trip to the Netherlands, please have a look at <u>www.squaredance.nl</u>, choose "Dans Specials Agenda" and find out if we have a special during your stay. Or choose "Clubs" and find out if there is a club that is having its regular club night during your stay. You may always contact us for further information at <u>info@squaredance.nl</u> in English, German or Dutch. If we have a dance during the summer holidays, this will be published at our website.

Finally I would like to wish you all, on behalf of the Dutch board and staff members, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Maarten Weijers President of the NVSD

SAASDC

Dear friends all over. I hope that you all have had a nice and joyful dance year also in 2014. Let me update you on what has happened for us during this year. As earlier said SAASDC have member clubs apart from Sweden also in Finland, Åland and Norway.

In the board of SAASDC we have continued to focus on recruit new dancers but also to keep the dancers we already have.

One of the activities in order to recruit new dancers, clubs have organized an increased number of try out dances and open air dances. The result is hard to evaluate but we believe that we can see a small increase in the number of dancers. On the other hand we can sadly notice that the number of clubs is slowly decreasing.

One of the main issues for us during this year is to use modern communications through social media sites. We started early this year by launching a brand new homepage with focus on non dancers or newcomers. Later we also launched a page on Facebook. With those steps we hope to have broaden our marketing for squaredance.

We believe that member clubs must be very active on their home ground in order to get more dancers. Therefore SAASDC have a recruiting fund, where clubs can get contribution for new and interesting activities.

If you are planning a trip to Sweden, please have a look at www.squaredans.se, choose dance list, for the latest information about our dances. You may always contact us for further information at info@squaredans.se

Finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tommy Hansson President SAASDC



Wil Stans Member of the Dutch Order of Oranje-Nassau with his wife Paula and the deputy-mayor of the city of Zaandam

My life with square dance and the Lions

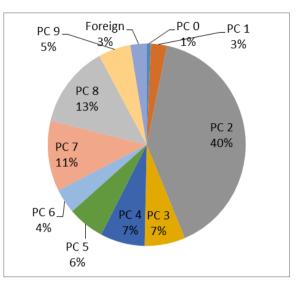
When I started with the Class in 2012, I was the youngest member of the club. All the same I have had a lot of fun and on my first Special dances I met a lot of other young people. I found this very surprising because I had not expected that there were so many young people who like square dancing. Already at that time I wondered if there might be some network or something like that where you can keep in touch with others and gain new contacts at special dances.

But soon after my graduation, a member of the Lions invited me to join their club. I asked to explain to me what this is all about, as being a new dancer it was all unknown to me. I found it a very good initiative and have no regret of joining in. By becoming a member I learned to know a lot of people throughout Germany. When you come to a special and recognise the Lions Badge you immediately have a subject to talk about. I believe that we attract other young dancers, because we often dance a little bit "wild" and form a cheerful community.

Also by the older dancers the Lions have become well known nowadays. Our two very special club nights held during this year have certainly helped on that point. They were held in Krichheim/Teck (together with the Häbbie Hibbos) and in Hannover (together with the Happy Squares). Here one could get a signature in the friendship book as well as a Lions dangle. Many dancers took the opportunity to get in contact with the youth, so both nights had a large numbers of visitors. Most dancers in Germany know by now who the Lions are and what they do. On top of that the Lions could organise their own annual youth weekend on May 9 till 11 in Berlin. Here the youth were together to strengthen their community. The callers were this year Thomas Rieger and Thomas Paul.

Further on the lions have got this year a new and modern home page. Under <u>www.Lionsquares.de</u> you can find all important data and documents. By now the Lions Squares Germany have about 150 members.

The Lion Squares Germany being a pure youth club promote and stimulate the young dancers. On specials dances the young dancers can often make arrangements to form their own squares. Beginning young dancers are integrated and encouraged to stay. The club delivers an important contribution to the youth requirement within square dancing and related dance forms. The youth is brought together and get their own voice. And of course we have a lot a great fun! Membership spreading over Germany by post code (PC)



We also have members from Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, The Netherlands, USA and Russia. See you soon in a square

Georg Seyboldt Lions Squares

The French (Square) Connection 2014

The activity in France continues to grow outward slowly while reaching upwards in a way I didn't expect to see 5 years ago.

About 37 kms south of Paris the Line Dance Club « Jambalya Country Dance » has graduated a number of their dancers at the Mainstream level and the club teachers are already impatient to start learning Plus.

The « Ouest Paris Swingers started a second dance evening last year, keeping our experienced dancers on their regular club night of Thursday, they are now dancing full Plus and are starting to learn A1. The municipality managed to provide us another dance hall for beginner lessons on Friday evenings. This year we have a full square of new recruits, exercising with last years « confirmed beginners », some of whom have already passed their graduation. The « OPS » organize a student dance at least once a year and an annual Special Dance.

Also in the Paris region, the « Lucky Boots », the Bunny Circles », and « Leaping Frogs » all have A1 evenings, some are learning (or have completed) A2, and some dancers have even started Challenge.

One of the dancers of « Leaping Frogs » is giving lessons officially in grade school to children in the age range of 8-10 years old. This is a new activity which we hope will assure young recruits and possibly open the eyes of their parents as well. Special dances are organised each year by « Ouest Paris Swingers », « Lucky Boots », and « Bunny Circles ».

The « Shooting Stars » (also near Paris) organised an afternoon get together about an hour and a half to the south of Paris this past October which managed to assemble many dancers of the Paris region with dancers of the « Circling Snails » of Bourgogne. The event was a success, to be repeated.

The clubs on the French Riveria are doing well, with new recruits each year and the levels also climbing within the clubs. « Funny Fish » are dancing and teaching levels up to A1. Their special dances attract many dancers from around Europe who appreciate the early spring warmth and sunshine of the Riveria. « Rainbow Diamonds» dance up to A2, and some members are dancing C1 as well. « Rockin' Family » continues to recruit and progress. Hopefully one day we will see special dances organised by each of the three clubs in the area.

In Gémozac, (the Cognac area of France) the « Gems Country » has started their second year learning Square Dance. They are highly motivated and have come all the way to the Paris area student dances on many occasions. They are working closely with another country dance club who started a Square Dance section. « Country West Oléron » have officially started giving lessons this year. I had a great opportunity to give initiation lessons to both groups last year, each initiation attracted 9 squares of dancers !

I was informed at the beginning of the summer that another Country Dance club near Toulouse is starting a section Square Dance. The « Calikat » club of Berat has started giving lessons this year. They have a small group who have learned some choreographies to give demo dances, and they are teaching themselves the essentials through DVDs.

Two of the activities founding members that many people in Europe have met (Paul and Bernadette Rivière) continue to give lessons at Saint-Etienne where they returned after retiring. They have a small group who continue to dance regularly on Wednesday evenings but haven't reached the size to organize a special dance in the area, yet.

I must mention also that we lost some high hopes recently for expansion in the Normandy area. Steven Lawrence, a fellow American well integrated in France over a number of years started to square dance with the various clubs in the Paris area. After spending some time with the Ouest Paris Swingers, he decided to give a hand at teaching and calling for « Paris Calling », and later for « Meudon Shooting Stars ». His job required him to leave the Paris area for Honfleur about 3 years ago. He started a club last year in Le Havre, the « Normandy Square Dancers ». Unfortunately, Steven passed away on Oct 31st. He was a really nice person, with a strong potential to develop the activity in the area.

Finally I will close out with a special « thank you » to Claude Tafin who has proposed his services to many clubs as web master and who graciously maintains a web site where all Square Dance activity in France can be consolodated. You can find links to most clubs in France as well as various information in French on his website provided here :

http://square-

dance.fr/ClubSquare/clubs%20square%20dance% 20france.htm

Hope to see you in a square in France soon.

Tom Mackler Ouest Paris Swingers

What was the last call / cue?

Dancing with hearing problems EAASDC Hearing Aid

Wouldn't it be a pity, if dancers left the activity just because of hearing problems? Well, they would not be the first dealing with this subject, and there are possibilities. Already now dancers request to connect a transmitter to the amplifier, so the commands are transmitted wirelessly to one or more receivers. The desired optimum is to transmit voice only without the music, but this depends on the possibilities of the amplifier.

Meanwhile the number of users increases, and if they use the same or comparable systems, 1 transmitter is enough to receive the sound with the volume set by the user. But it already happened that 2 or more dancers requested a connection of their transmitter, causing trouble even for the technically knowledgeable caller.

The problems are the more likely to emerge the bigger the hall is, so especially at Jamborees and Conventions. There, they have more than one hall, and who would not like to be able to change halls without any problem?

If this means to ask one dance leader to disconnect the transmitter, to disassemble the set-up, change hall and ask the next dance leader to connect the transmitter to the other amplifier, then easily 1-2 tips are missed. How comfortable it would be to simply switch the channel.

To make this possible, dancers of our activities should use a common system. Therefore, I asked dancers using such systems about their experience. Next was to check whether the frequencies are usable across Europe for free and on a long time basis. Besides the already used equipment I also checked alternatives to find an inexpensive equipment of high quality, which will be available for several years to come. My target is to suggest a kind of norm.

The result is a system already used by several dancers: IMG Stage Line 16T / 16R, available across Europe from dealers of Monacor. With this information EAASDC bought 1 transmitter and 1 receiver for testing purposes. Presently, we are in contract negotiations with Monacor giving dancers and clubs the possibility to buy this equipment at drastically reduced prices. Details regarding contract and buying process will follow.

I hope, not only EAASDC but also neighbor associations will be convinced by this idea. I will probably not be successful in Great Britain since there halls are equipped with induction loops as standard, I have been told. But please contact me and give me feedback about this idea. For more information check the homepage of EAASDC in the near future, and I am also happy to help.

Joachim Rühenbeck

<u>Hearing-Aid@EAASDC.eu</u> +49 / 202 / 7387158

BUFFALO'S

Another great year!

This year has been another great year for Buffalo Squares - the youth Square Dance Club in Sweden. Last year we launched a campaign of strength to show that we want to be involved and that we care about Square Dance. The first step was proclamation - we wrote articles, went public and created a Facebook page. The second step was action - we established our own beginner's class and taught young people how to Square Dance in just a weekend, we also organized dancing in public places. However, the third step was yet to be presented!

But first, let us summerize our Square Up Weekends! In September 2013 Buffalo Squares launched our first and very own beginner's class of Square Dance. We simply called it "Square Up!" We taught a group of young people how to Square Dance – in a weekend. A beginner's class that was adapted for young people with the intention to make them dance and get a fair idea of what Square Dance is all about. We did not just offer a course, but also a fun and delightful weekend, a highway straight into the heart of Square Dance. We wanted them to experience all the fun we have, right from the beginning.

We wanted to give them a feeling of belonging together. So we copied one of our successful Youth Dances, had an enjoyable weekend, with dancing, music, nice friends, good food and games. Now that's *Buffalo*, and that is how we wanted our beginner's class to be.

We have taught young people how to dance at a Basic level in a weekend and it has worked out just fine. It was the participants own free choice to decide whether they wanted to keep dancing after the weekend. I have the honor to declare that several of our Square Up students are now graduated, a couple of them went straight to dancing at the National Convention of Sweden and others have been spotted at public dances over the year! At this point we have hosted three beginner's classes and are now planning some kind of followup, probably like a Mainstream class for those who would like to learn more. We are using a model for systematic development and have learned a lot from these Square Up Weekends. We are getting better and better doing this. And we will make more young people Square Dance.

Now on to the great news! Buffalo Squares will be the host of the Swedish National Square Dance Convention 2015 in Jönköping! Of course, it is an incredible honor and a huge responsibility! Although. I have no doubt that we will do just as well as if we were a "normal" Square Dance club (defined by geographic affiliation). We will try to put all our experience and excitement in this upcoming event. All our joy of dance and fellowship put together for one epic weekend! And hopefully we will appear as a reputable and respected Square Dance club. The Swedish Convention 2015 will be in the 1-3/5 2015 and of course, vou are all most welcome! Visit the website convention2015.se/en for more information and follow our hashtag #SWESDC2015 on social media.

Let us finish this article by clarifying our attitude towards Square Dance. We are often wearing the traditional Square Dance outfits. We are dancing by the definitions by Callerlab. And we are dancing to the traditional Square Dance music you are all familiar with. Those are all the pillars which the legacy of Squaredancing rests upon. However... We also wear casual clothing, nice and elegant but still ordinary shirts and skirts.

We also like to add some playfulness to the dancing once in a while, something extra, something more. And we also like dancing to the latest of the latest music. That does not necessarily mean "Crazy Frog" all the time. What we are looking for is a widening of the dance. To allow ourselves to put more into the activity called "Square Dance". We all love the traditional heritage and we will protect that - but we also need to develop. We like to think outside the square and do the most one possibly can.

We are all fighting for the survival of Square Dance. We have to be flexible. We need to seek new ways. We need to cooperate. We have to be willing to do whatever we can. Now is not the time to talk about old times or to lose hope. Now is the time to act. Always remember that, we set the greatest barriers ourselves. There is another wave coming. We want to be a part of it. This is when the tide turns.

You can find us on <u>buffalosquares.se</u> or at our Facebook page. Follow us and stay connected for more information about our Square Up Weekends and especially our new challenge - Convention 2015 in Jönköping, Sweden.

We really hope to see you soon in a square! Never stop to square up.

Buffalo Squares through Jon Hansell Nilsson



CANADIAN SQUARE & ROUND DANCE SOCIETY Friendship from coast to coast/ L'amitie d'un ocean

a l'autre 1-866-206-6696 www.squaredance.ca

Greetings Fellow Members of the Modern Square Dance World!

Here in Canada, the season is changing rapidly toward the one which most of you associate with Canada! Winter is well on the way despite the calendar.

Dancing in Canada has entered another full term beginning in September and in many cases dancers are active to the end of May. The 2013-14 term was highlighted by a most successful Canadian National Convention/Festival 17-19 July 2014. It took place in the National Capitol, Ottawa, Ontario.

A particularly exciting experience for many was to dance on the grounds in front of the Parliament

buildings. Some 20 squares performed for the public under warm sunny skies.

The next Canadian National Festival will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan, 28-30 July 2016. This will give traveling dancers a chance to experience the unique landscape

of the Canadian prairie (called the breadbasket of Canada). Festival 2016 is only 20 months away so plans should soon be made to come and "Partner Up Prairie Style"!

See <u>www.saskfestival2016.ca</u>, where we hope to see many more visits by European dancers.

For the 2015 dance term, readers are invited to visit the Canadian Square and

Round Dance Society website at

<u>www.squaredance.ca</u> There you will find complete information about all of the five forms of dance the Society supports: Square, Round,

Contra, Line dancing, and Clogging. Each Province in the country has an organization

that invites you to visit as shown when selecting "Provinces" on that website.

Canadians are known for their friendliness, which is always evident at Square dances! The best way to confirm that impression is to come and visit us! WELCOME!

J.R. (Bob) Ruohoniemi Past President Canadian Square and Round Dance Society

EAASDC honorary membership for Eberhard and Traudel Walz

In 1990 a "young" couple started to travel to Russia and established contacts, which led to numerous long-standing friendships. As both of them were Square Dancers and he soon became a Caller, they quickly "infected" Russian friends with our hobby, which soon lead to the foundation of the first Square Dance Club in St. Petersburg. In the years that followed they regularly traveled to Russia to train dancers and callers there and to support the development of Square Dance in Russia. They often traveled alone as well as together with other volunteers and organized several trips to Russia for Square Dancers not only from Germany.

Stages/notes from his (Eberhard Walz) report about the development of Square Dance in Russia:

- On 23 August 2003 the registered association "Deutsch Russische Square Dance Freunde e.V." (German-Russian Square Dance Friends) was founded in Ansbach to establish the Square Dance training in Russia. (Vice President is the male part of the above named couple.)
- Continued on page 11 Continued from page 10

- One day we received a letter from Russia with the unforgettable words: "Thank you for the infectious disease called Square Dance!" and in May 2004 we went north by bus from St. Petersburg with more than 20 people to celebrate the most festive graduation of all times in the town hall foyer in the presence of the mayoress and the culture secretary of the Republic of Karelia. The first Square Dance Club in Russia was born, the "Onega Wave Dancers", who will celebrate their 10th anniversary on 9 August 2014.
- In May 2005 the club foundation and graduation of the Sunday Smiling Squares, in Pskov was celebrated.
- In January 2006 there were extreme temperatures in Russia. We equipped ourselves for minus 30 degrees Celsius and the two of us traveled to St. Petersburg to give a workshop. It was extremely important for the perseverance and establishment of the new club "Palace Square Dancers" in St. Petersburg.
- At the seminar in St. Petersburg in the fall of 2005 a young woman, who had to leave early to catch a plane asked while saying goodbye: "Can you do this in my homeland?" My answer: "If you have electricity and 8 people, of course". "Where would that be?" "Come to Murmansk!" In May 2007 we went to Murmansk together with a tour group of 25 people to celebrate the graduation and club foundation: the " Polar Light Dancers " were founded.
- A new star in the Square Dance sky is born in Kaliningrad, the former German Königsberg. In June 2012 the "Happy Cats Koenigsberg" were founded. The cats are Königsberg's landmark. The club's manageress Olga Kravtschenko meanwhile is the representative of the Russian clubs in the EAASDC Board.

A dream comes true..... It finally happened on 25 May 2013! The 1st graduation of the "Red Squares" in Moscow.

For all these years this couple invested a lot of time, money, and exertions in building up Russian Square Dance clubs. Meanwhile, six Russian Clubs are members of the EAASDC. They were supported by others, whether from Germany, Europe, USA or Canada, whether from dancers or callers, but without their initial spark, their initiative and their never-ending dedication there wouldn't be this Square Dance success in Russia today. For this and in place of all co-helpers and the Square Dance in Russia EAASDC gives thanks to this couple.

This couple has been contributing their dedication for decades and has drawn their motivation from the fundamental elements of the Square Dance idea:

The friendship among all nations as well as from the shining eyes and the fun of the Russian dancers they taught Square Dance. The EAASDC believes, that this achievement is a special merit for Square Dance, as per our Statutes §5.7, and shall be honored with conferring lifetime honorary membership of EAASDC to Eberhard and Traudel Walz!

3rd SRRS Youth Special 2014



15. 11. 2014 by Mimi

Sustained applause at the end of the dancing led to 4 encores!

This confirmed the good atmosphere, the fun and the joy that reigned on the dance floor that day. The dance floor?

64 guests from 22 clubs from near and far. The Vice President Olaf Pfeiffer emphasized the importance of the Youth just by being there. If you were to try and define it, when is a Special a Youth Special? Perhaps one possibility would be: if more than half the guests entered in the guest book are under 30, then could you refer to it with a clear conscience as a Youth Special?

We would have complied with this definition this year, too! There were more than 50% of the guests, to be precise 35 participants under the age of 30! A genuine Youth Special? We think so! Bright sunshine flooded the vast window front in

the hall, making everything appear bright and cheerful.

Our guests came from far away: from Hamburg and Dinslaken, for example.

They arrived sooner, and didn't depart until Sunday, thus being able to visit Stuttgart and see a number of sightseeing places. The dancers from the Lion Squares, traveling from near and far, made them the club with the most members present. They came for example from Munich, Ansbach, Seckach, Darmstadt, Speyer, Karlsruhe, Sinsheim, Rastatt, Herbrechtingen and Hüttlingen. Together with other guests from clubs closer to us, they built up the total number of dancers there. Out of the 29 dancers aged over 30, a number had exceeded this age only by a few years.

Uli Schingen, Thomas Rieger, a guest tip with Wolfgang Rieger and also the new young caller Christian Reif, offered very diversified music, and so it couldn't be other than that they created a great atmosphere with very happy dancers in the hall.

We cordially thank all our willing helpers, without whom this Special would not have taken place. Olaf, Eva-Maria, Franz, Andy, Roberto, Reinhold, RebKlaus, Tobias, Juliane, Markus, Hans-Peter, Jürgen.

We also thank those from the EAASDC for their commitment to the financial support.

The result of the anonymous feedback questionnaire from the dancers under 30 showed a 97% agreement on the fun, the dance program, and the music. With the exception of 2 "possibles", all intend to come back again next year!

Age	No.	MS	Plus	A1	A2	C1	C2	C3A
Under 8	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U 15	10	9	-	1	-	-	-	-
U 21	14	3	8	2	-	1	-	-
U 30	11	5	3	1	-	1	-	1
30 +	29	7	17	3	-	1	1	-

What is also of interest? A small set of statistics:

One of the nicest confirmations for such a Youth event: a 30+ dancer brought 3 young dancers along from her club. They really intended to give up Square Dancing. At the end of the event they had had so much fun, that they were determined to carry on dancing.

And that makes us all very happy!

Photos and a video can be found at <u>www.srrs.de</u> Translated by Clive Jones



4th SRRS Youth Special 2015

2015 November 14th



Calendar of Conventions & Jamborees

2015

April March May May June June August September	$\begin{array}{c} 0206 \\ 13 -15 \\ 0103 \\ 1517 \\ 29 -31 \\ 12 -14 \\ 24 -26 \\ 0614 \\ 04 -06 \end{array}$	NSDSA EAASDC SAASDC ECTA NZSRDC DAASDC DAASDC BAASDC EAASDC	56 th Convention Spring Jamboree 33 rd Convention 45 th Round D Festival 49 TH Nat Convention 24 th Convention 64 th Convention Nat.week of dance 60 years EAASDC	Adalaide SA Hochheim a M Jönköping Rüsselheim Kaikuora Fredensborg Springfield Mass Lytham st Annes Gelsenkirchen	
2016					
March May June June/July July July September	12 - 13 20 - 22 22 - 25 29 - 03 22 - 24 28 - 30 02 - 04	EAASDC ECTA NSDC NSDSA BAASDC CSRDS EAASDC	Spring Jamboree 44 th Round D Festival 65 th Convention 57 th Convention 9 th Eur Convention 19 th Convention Fall Round Up	tba tba Des Moines IO Buderim QLD Stratford-u-Avon Regina SK tba	Germany Germany USA Australia UK Canada Germany
2017					
March Tba May June September	10—12 26 - 28 21 - 24 01 - 03	EAASDC NSDSA ECTA NSDC EAASDC	Spring Jamboree 58 th Convention 47 th Round D Festival 66 th Convention Fall Round Up	tba Bendigo VIC tba Cincinnati OH tba	Germany Australia Germany USA Germany
2018					
June	27 – 30	NSDC	67 th Convention	Kansas City MS	USA

Details of Australian Clubs for the European Newsletter.

National Square Dance Society of Australia

President - Leighton Bloomfield +61 7 3341 2229

South Australia **56th Australian National Square Dance Convention** is to be held Easter Weekend in 2015, Thursday 2nd April to Monday 6th April 2015 in Adelaide, South Australia Venue: The Gardens Recreation Centre, Parafield Gardens, Adelaide, Australia Theme is "Come to the Caberet" Convenors; Graham and Dawn Elliott, P.O. Box 214, Findon, South Australia, Postcode 5023 - Australia Phone +61 8 8353 1749 Website www.adelaide2015.com

In 2016 the 57th National Convention will be held in Buderim, Queensland, Australia In 2017 the 58th National Convention will be held in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia

Clubs in the State of South Australia

South Australia Square Dance Society - President is Heather Wheeler

Monday Findon	Adelaide Outlaws	Graham Elliot	+61 8 8353 1749
Tuesday Magill Pt Noarlanga	Kanella Squares Sunset Twirlers	Jeff Seidel Les Tulloch	+61 8 8263 5023 +61 8 8388 2502
Wednesday Kilburn Sturt	Adelaide Outlaws Sunset Twirlers	Graham Elliott Les Tulloch	+61 8 8353 1749 +61 8 8388 2502
Thursday Para Vista Collinswood	Leisurely Squares T&T Rounds	Noes Noesbar Tom & Thelma McC	+61 8 8258 3046 ue +6188261 8128
Friday Collinswood Elizabeth Port Elliot Magill Mt. Gambier Narracoorte	T&T Rounds Scoot back squares Paddle Steamers Wild Frontier Pine City Twirlers Acey Squares	Tom & Thelma McC (records) (tape, CD club) Jeff Seidel (records) (records)	ue +618261 8128 +61 8 8263 3471 +61 8 8552 3879 +61 8 8263 5023 +61 8 8725 7524 +61 8 8762 3629
Saturday Mt. Gambier	Allabout Squares	Andrea Braun	+61 0417 509 144
Sunday Collinswood	T&T Rounds	Tom & Thelma McC	ue +6188261 8128

Clubs in the State of New South Wales

Square and Round dance Association of NSW - President; David Todd +61 0411 888 515

Monday Armadale Batemans Bay Wollongong	Kent House Hoedowr Southern Ocean Wave The Red Barons	· · · /	+61 2 6778 5004 +61 2 4472 4562 +61 2 4229 4059
Tuesday Beecroft Beverly Hills Engadine Warriewood Woonona Wandandian	Hillbillies Wandering Stars Top Cats Newport Ocean Wave Guys and Dolls Shoalhaven	Steve & Vicky Dean David Gibbs Brett Gill es (CD) Tedda Brooks Jan Johnson	+61 2 9773 7597 +61 2 9798 9374 +61 2 9528 4693 +61 2 9402 0842 +61 2 4283 5685 +61 2 4443 4436
Wednesday Regentville Sans Souci French Forest Armidale Casino Corrimal Glen Innes Merimbula Newcastle Tamworth Taree Toukley	Panther Squares Red Barons ` Greenwich Swingers Armidale Eights Willi Whirlers Guys & Dolls Glen Squares Sapphire Squares Tartan Promenaders Cloverleaf Dancers anning Promenaders B-Bar-H	Maree Huffadine Barry Wonson (CD) David Williams Wilma Flannery Tedda Brooks Barry & Val Knight George Pitt Keith Howard Neil Bryan Don McElligott Brian Hotchkies	$\begin{array}{r} +61\ 2\ 9610\ 2523\\ +61\ 2\ 4229\ 4059\\ +61\ 2\ 9451\ 8777\\ +61\ 2\ 6775\ 1707\\ +61\ 2\ 6662\ 6647\\ +61\ 2\ 4283\ 5685\\ +61\ 2\ 6732\ 1735\\ +61\ 2\ 6495\ 2734\\ +61\ 0405\ 115163\\ +61\ 2\ 6765\ 8499\\ +61\ 2\ 6585\ 5364\\ +61\ 2\ 4392\ 0336\end{array}$
Thursday Engadine Beverly Hills Lismore Toukley Tuggerah Wandandian Woy Woy	Top Cats Red Barons Northern Waves B-Bar-H Carpenter & Co Shoalhaven Pelican Promenaders	Brett Gill Barry Wonson Francis Hickson Brian Hotchkies Gary Carpenter Jan Johnson Lorraine Long	+61 2 9528 4693 +61 2 4229 4059 +61 2 6624 1885 +61 2 4396 6593 +61 2 4362 1275 +61 2 4443 4436 +61 2 4344 4939
Friday Artarmon Armidale Alstonville Blaxland East Kiama	Greenwich Swingers Saintly Devil Dancers Summerland Larikins Mountain Devils Happy Trailers	s Margaret Betts	+ 61 2 9953 0769 +61 2 6775 1118 +61 2 6662 6647 +61 2 4753 6382 +61 2 4443 4436
Saturday Sutherland Godford	Top Cats Tumbi Country	Brett Gill Brian Hotchkies	+61 2 9528 4693 +61 2 4392 0336

Sunday	
Gulgong	Gulgong Grand

Gulgong Gulgong Grand Squares Arthur Johnson +61 2 6374 1771

Clubs in the State of Queensland

Square Dancing Society of Queensland - President; Lynette Macpherson

Buderim Caloundra Hervey Bay Maryborough	Logan City Centre Town & Country y Upbeat Chaos Suncoasters Lighthouse Squares Hervey Bay SDC Heritage City Rocky Twirlers	Dougal Findlay Noel McKenzie Garry Peterson Nev McLachlan David Smythe (CD) David Habler Michael Mills	+61 7 3472 5556 +61 7 3714 9917 +61 7 403240129 +61 7 5445 1238 +61 7 5492 1254 +61 7 4194 6647 +61 7 4121 7405 +61 7 428761244
Tuesday Caboolture Alexandra Hil Kallangur Buderim Cairns	E.Z. Squares ls Gumdale Grands Pine Rivers Suncoasters Ulysses Squares	Glenn Wilson Alan Evans Margaret Baines Nev McLachlan (CD)	+61 7 3261 4177 +61 7 3800 1270 +61 7 3285 2130 +61 7 5445 1238 +61 7 4033 6342
Oxley Wavell Heigh Buderim Hervey Bay	ls Gumdale Grands Uniting Squares ts Wavell Whirlers Suncoasters Hervey Bay SDC Capricorn Waves	Alan Evans Kay Walker Sid Leighton Nev McLachlan (CD) Bevan Titmarsh	+61 7 3800 1270 +61 7 3202 8723 +61 7 3354 1004 +61 7 5445 1238 +61 7 4194 6647 +61 7 428870338
Thursday Bribie Island Geebung Caloundra Bundaberg	Bribie Island SDC Northside Promenade Lighthouse Squares Community Squares	Brian Horsey rs Glenn Wilson David Smythe Shirley Kelly	+61 7 3261 1065 +61 7 3261 4177 +61 7 5492 1254 +61 7 4159 2308
Clontarf Bundaberg Cairns Maryborough	Loggan City Centre Rambling Eights Salad Bowl Squares Sunshine Squares Cane Country Cairns City Squares Heritage Squares Rocky Twirlers Sun City	Alan Evans David Pearce Kay Walker Lynette Macpherson Matthew Mills Ron Moon David Habler Michael Mills Ken Clive	+61 7 3800 1270 +61 7 3263 1408 +61 7 3286 2260 +61 7 3204 2335 +61 7 4152 5051 +61 7 4045 1737 +61 7 4045 1737 +61 7 408703910 +61 7 4788 7393

Saturday Cresmead Buderim West Burleigl Hervey Bay	Logan City Cerntre Suncoasters n Burleigh Squares Hervey Bay SDC	Jane Rayner Nev McLachlan Alan Evans (CD)	+61 7 3299 7717 +61 7 5445 1238 +61 7 3800 1270 +61 7 4194 6647
Sunday Graceville Buderim	Kay's Plus Suncoasters	Kay Walker Nev McLachlan	+61 7 3202 8723 +61 7 5445 1238

Clubs in the State of Victoria

Victoria Square Dancing Association - President Mark Kelly +61 3 9741 8120

The 46th Victorian State Convention will be held in Warrnambool, Victoria At St. Pius X Hall, 71 Morriss Road, Warrnambool 6th March to 9th March 2015 For information please phone Mark Kelly, phone +61 3 9741 8120 Or email stateconvention2015@gmail.com

Monday Heatherton Nunawading Pinewood	Harlequin Rounds Kintyre Dance Club Pat-A-Rounds	Coral Wegmann Carol Simomdson Pat Saunder	+61 3 9702 9251 +61 3 400354445 +61 3 9706 1194
Tuesday Narre Warren Notting Hill Geelong Deer Park Nunawading	Golden Squares Jaybee Squares The Geelong Club Token Squares Whitehorse	Graham Jameson Mike Davey Darren Taylor Barry Wootten Janice Alexander	+61 3 9703 0309 +61 3 9590 0550 +61 3 435091277 +61 3 9363 5628 +61 3 9872 5399
Wednesday Somerville MacLeod Werribee	Australiana Dancers Burra Squares Crossroads	Jaden Frigo Neil Wynn Howard Cockburn	+61 3 5977 6682 +61 3 8742 2197 +61 3 9741 4501
Thursday Frankston Greensboroug Essendon Albert Park Heatherton Paynesville Bendigo Bass Shepparton	Activ-ates h Diamond Valley S Essendon SDC Southern Cross A Sunnyside Rounds Eastern 8's Modern Squares Phillip Island S Golden Valley SDC	Paula Wright Sharon Lacey Peter Humphrey Howard Cockburn Ella Whyte Max Hodder Phillip Aslanidis Graham Jameson Darcy Hoge	+61 3 9789 1370 +61 3 9435 5505 +61 3 9390 8308 +61 3 9741 4501 +61 3 9551 8496 +61 3 5156 1459 +61 3 419251422 +61 3 9703 0309 +61 3 428197824
Friday Forest Hill Albert Park	Rosella Rounds Southern Cross Plus	Fiona Callaghan Howard Cockburn	+61 3 9802 5087 +61 3 9741 4501

Saturday Deer Park Heathmont Forest Hill Heatherton	Chemistry Sets Kaleidoscope Phoenix Squares Sunnyside Lodge	Ralph Weise Janice Alexander Colin Dandridge Ella Whyte	+61 3 9367 2440 +61 3 9872 5399 +61 3 438515873 +61 3 9551 8496
Sunday Somerville Heatherton Wangaratta Sale	Australiana Dancers Sunnyside Rounds Kelly Country Stardbroke Squares	Jaden Frigo Ella Whyte (Records) Janet Cooke	+61 3 5977 6682 +61 3 9551 8496 +61 3 5722 4449 +61 3 419363614

Clubs in the State of Tasmania

The Tasmanian Square Dance Society	-	President; Frank Steers
		$+61\ 0418\ 141\ 081$

Monday Hobart	Casino City	John Weatherburn	+61 3 6244 2144
Wednesday Kindred Newstead	Tassie Twirlers Launceston	Graeme Whiteley Glenn McLaren Di Ashton	+61 3 64228 3134 +61 3 6344 6522 +61 3 6343 4144

Clubs in the State of Western Australia

Square Dance Society of Western Australia – President: Steve Longwood +61 8 9243 1200

Monday Wembley Como Queens Park Bunbury Mandurah	Cloverleaf Kiwilers Riverside Bunbury SDC Dolphin Squares	Andy Calvin Richard Muir Trish Holloway (records) Tony Gray	+61 8 9247 3818 +61 8 9474 5485 +61 8 9451 4074 +61 8 9795 8557 +61 8 9535 3205
Tuesday Hamersley Como Gosnells	Greenfinches Kiwilers Ups 'n' downers	Don Gauci Richard Muir Taffy Jones	+61 8 9405 4517 +61 8 9474 5485 +61 8 9414 5115
Wednesday Joondanna WhiteGumVa Subiaco	Dianella Rangers	Jeff van Sambeeck Bruce Gillett Kevin Fitzgerald	+61 8 9307 7728 +61 8 9418 2882 +61 8 9305 4096

Thursday Como Joondanna Bunbury	Kiwilers Boomerangs Jay Gees	Richard Muir Jeff van Sambeeck Jeff Garbutt	+61 8 9474 5485 +61 8 9307 7728 +61 8 9796 1130
Friday Eden Hill	Happy Wanderers	Kevin Kelly	+61 8 9379 2590
Como York Margaret Rive Albany Geralton Wongan Hills	Swinging Squares	Richard Muir Brian Sims Brendan Jordan Cherie Crogan David Gibson Robert Dew	+61 8 9474 5485 +61 8 9646 1243 +61 8 9758 0034 +61 8 9854 3070 +61 8 9938 2180 +61 8 9620 1234
Saturday Wembley WhiteGumVa Gidgegannup	Northern Stars lley WGV Gidgegannup	Paul Long D. Gauci Alan Eades	+61 8 9405 2078 +61 8 9337 5385 +61 8 9621 1482

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