

Meri Squares

July 2025 Newsletter

Hello Dancers!

Here we are almost in mid-July, with hot summer weather making us forget all about those snow storms. What a blessing to be able to enjoy the sun and lazier times.

Your Executive members have been hard at work though planning promotional activities to attract new dancers, looking ahead to our fall and winter dance schedules and thinking of ways to make your dance experience with Meri Squares even better! If you have any ideas, feel free to reach out to any of us. Our contact info is on the website:

www.merisquares.ca

Tuesday, July 15 – Summer SSD and Plus dance – Tailgate party!

This coming Tuesday is our July Club night. John will be calling SSD and Plus at the Dulude Arena at 941 Clyde Avenue from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. The AC is working but please bring your own water. June saw 5 squares on the floor....let's see if we can do even better this month. Cost is \$10 per person.

July 15 will also be our **annual tailgate party!** Following the dance, everyone is invited to join us in the parking lot by the baseball diamond. Bring a lawn chair and whatever snacks you like, for yourself or to share. This is a time to just sit and chat. Let's show those baseball and hockey folks that square dancers can tailgate right along with the best of them!

Summer Promotional Events

Summer is our time to encourage others to join square dancing. Thank you to Michelle Gravelle and Annette Farrow for finding us great opportunities to spread the word!

Saturday, July 26, Parkdale Market: Club members will be hosting an information booth at the Parkdale Market, 366 Parkdale Ave, Ottawa from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. We will be handing out information and gathering names for a raffle of a fun backpack with lots of goodies. If you are in the area, drop by to say hi and help drum up interest.

Saturday, August 23, Westboro Farmers Market: Meri Squares will be hosting another information booth at the busy Westboro Farmers Market, at the corner of Byron Ave and Golden Ave., from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We could use a few volunteers to help distribute information and gather names for another backpack draw. If you can spare an hour or so, please contact Michelle Gravelle at mgraveln628@rogers.com.

Saturday, August 30, Westboro Farmers Market, 11:00 to 1:00 pm. Calling all dancers! We will be doing a 2 hour demo to attract new dancers. Wendy will be calling, and we will need lots of dancers to take shifts during this period. We will be calling mostly SSD with maybe a Plus tip depending on the volunteers. Dancing is on the grass at the corner of Byron Ave and Golden Ave. This is a great opportunity to show how much fun square dancing is. Please reach out to Michelle if you are available to dance so we can get a head count and ensure we have 8 dancers at all times. Dancers from other clubs are welcome! mgraveln628@rogers.com. Mark your calendars and come dance!

Summer Picnic – Saturday, August 9

Meri Squares Annual Summer Picnic will take place on Saturday, August 9 at Britannia Park. We will be located on the grass to the west (left) of the main building (where the washrooms and snack bar are) and its parking lot. Check out the flyer on the website (merisquares.ca) for more location and parking details. Bring your own lunch, drink and chair and plan to dance on the grass to Wendy and John. Time is 12 noon to 2:00 pm. See you there! Friends and dancers from all clubs welcome. No rain date.

Promotional materials

Meri Squares has created business cards and door hangers to distribute to attract new dancers. These materials will be available at all of our events for members to take and distribute to friends, family and neighbours. Please consider spreading the word about square dancing. Personal connections are our best recruitment strategy.

President's message, dance schedule and fees

All of the above information will be coming to you in early August, so stay tuned. And remember...we will be **teaching** Plus on Thursday nights this year.

EOSARDA Welcome Back Dance

EOSARDA is hosting a new dance this fall. The Welcome Back dance is just that ... a chance for dancers from all clubs to come together at the start of the dance season. A chance to renew friendships, remember somewhat foggy dance calls, and start the season with a bang! The Welcome Back dance is on **Saturday, September 13** in Prescott at St. Andrew's Church. Dancing will be in two halls, from 10:30 to 1pm and 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Levels SSD through A1/A2. Callers are Brian Crawford and Dave Hutchinson. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend.

See everyone on the dance floor soon!

Lamar Mason
President
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