

MERI SQUARES
AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER
www.merisquares.ca

Hello Meri Squares dancers:

Amazing...it is already August and many of us have started looking ahead to September and the new dance season. I hope, however, that everyone takes the time to enjoy the (very) warm weather and sunny skies and time to regroup.

That being said, there is lots happening for Meri Squares members, and others who may want to join us, in August. We are certainly ramping up our promotional activities to attract others to square dancing. Hopefully, you can find time to help.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, August 9 – Meri Squares Picnic

August 9 is our annual picnic. We will meet at Britannia Park, west of the main building, at 12 noon. Please bring your own lunch, beverages and chair. Meri Squares will provide a light dessert. John and Wendy will be calling tips on the grass starting at about 1 pm. We will wrap up around 2 pm. Friends from other clubs are welcome as always! See the flyer on the Meri Squares website or FB page for detailed directions. www.merisquares.ca

Sunday, August 24 – Dancers needed in Pembroke – Respond by August 10

I know Pembroke is a bit of a long way away, BUT the Swinging Swallows is a very small club and needs help from the rest of us to recruit new dancers. They cancelled their demo in July for lack of dancers. Can we maybe get a carload or two to travel up the valley for a demo from 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm on Pembroke's waterfront? The date is Sunday, August 24. Dinner at a restaurant afterwards if we want to stay. I will be going up and have room for 3 others in my car. Graduate SSD dancers welcome as dancing will be at the starting level. Gloria who is organizing needs to know who is coming by August 10. Please reach out to Gloria (bateman.gloria@gmail.com) or me (lamarmason4@gmail.com) by then.

Dancers/helpers needed – Friday, August 15 to Sunday, August 17

Somewhat closer to Ottawa, Wendy VanderMeulen is promoting square dancing at the Russell Fair. The Russell club is quite small, so extra help is needed. If you can help with dancing at demos or the information booth, she would welcome your assistance: August 15 (11:15 to 12:30), Aug 16 (10:15 to 11:30 am and 12:15 to 1:30 pm -on the info booth), and Aug 17 (12:15 to 1:30 pm). Please contact Wendy directly at wendygvandermeulen@gmail.com

Tuesday, August 19 – Club dance night

August 19 is our last summer dance night. We had great attendance in June, but July was quite sparse in comparison, although the tailgate party was awesome! Hopefully, many of you will be around this month. Dancing is from 7 to 9 pm at the Dulude Arena, 970 Clyde Avenue. Cost is \$10 per person.

MERI SQUARES PROMOTIONAL EVENTS

Saturday, August 23, Westboro Market

We have snagged an information booth at the busy Westboro Farmers Market on August 23 from 8 am to 3 pm. The location is the corner of Golden Ave and Byron Ave, perfect for recruiting. Michelle is organizing times for people to man the booth and distribute club information. Please give her a shout at mgraveln628@rogers.com if you can help.

Saturday, August 30 – Demo at Westboro Market

We have an opportunity to show off square dancing on August 30 at the Westboro Farmers Market. Demo is 11 am to 1 pm. Perfect time to catch all sorts of future dancers! Dancing is outdoors so lots of dancers will be needed to spell people off if it is hot. Please contact Michelle if you can lend a hand for even some of the time (mgraveln628@rogers.com).

MERI SQUARES OPEN HOUSES – BRING A FRIEND!

Growing our club depends on you! We will have promotional materials available for you to hand out to friends or distribute to homes in your neighbourhood at the August dance and promotional events. Please take some to spread the word. Our SSD Open Houses will be September 2 and 9 at Dulude Arena at 7 pm. SSD teach and returning SSD begin on September 16 although angels are very necessary at both open houses!

PLUS TEACH

This year, Meri Squares will be teaching Plus for experienced SSD and Mainstream dancers looking to advance their skills. If you are unsure if you are ready, please speak to Wendy for her advice. Plus teach will start on Thursday, September 11 at 7:15 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Ave. Details and fees will be provided in the President's Newsletter in mid-August.

Current Plus dancers return on Thursday, September 4 at Westminster at 7:15.

OTHER EVENTS

Ottawa Date Squares Dance: August 23, 9:30 to 12:30, SSD to A1, Don Moger calling. Arts Court Theatre, 2 Daly Ave. \$15

EOSARDA Welcome Back Dance: Saturday, September 13, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Prescott, Dave Hutchinson and Brian Crawford calling, Basic/SSD to A1/A2, 10:30 am to 4:30 (bring your lunch). \$12 per session, \$20 all day.

WOW...your calendars are now full until mid-September!

Remember...everyone, from any club, is always welcome at Meri Squares!

See everyone soon.

Lamar Mason, President
Meri Squares
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