

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2014



Now we are into March and the days getting longer and we **can** look forward to better weather. All those who have come out every Monday night in the cold weather deserve a big yellow rock! Our attendance has certainly dropped since Christmas but we hope more people will come out in the few months left of our regular season.

A **Basic Workshop** is planned for **Saturday, March 29** from 2-4:30pm. This will only be held if the majority of our basic dancers sign up for it, especially our new dancers who have started in September 2013 and January 2014. However ALL of us can do with more review of our basic moves. I can't stress enough how important it is to have a very strong ability in the basic level. It is the foundation upon which all other levels are built. We have asked Joe Uebelacker to do this workshop. Some of you know Joe but for those who don't it is good to hear the moves explained by another caller in perhaps a different way. Also at Spring Spree you will have Joe calling and some other callers who are new to you. So this will give you exposure to a new voice and build your confidence when attending Spring Spree. If you have one or more moves you really would like to workshop, please write it down to give to Joe.

Our **Mainstream Sunday for March 16th** has been moved to St. Anne's Parish Hall, 859 Barnardo Ave. This is due to the St. Patrick's Day Parade which starts around George Street United Church. Berry Chumbley will be the caller.

Due to the low attendance over the past couple of months and the resulting loss of revenue, we have decided not to hold any free dances for the rest of this dance season. Also, for those attending any club dance at the weekend, you will be asked to pay for our Monday club night. We apologize for any inconvenience but to be fiscally responsible, this has become necessary. (We have 123 members but attendance has been less than half). If there is anything the club can do to encourage a more regular attendance, please talk to one of the executive or the caller.

For those who completed our survey in the Fall, we thank you for taking the time to give us this feedback. A synopsis of the survey results is filed in our red binder. Many people expressed the need for more review of the basic moves so this is why we have planned the Basic Workshop for March 29. Quite a few people mentioned that we should stress the importance of attending regularly. If you are learning any level new to you, regular attendance is essential. Learning assists are available on-line (Saddlebrook and Taminations) and we have DVD's for sale of the Saddlebrook program for those without internet. A booklet of the moves is also available for sale at \$3.50. Like any new skill one learns, doing some homework will help.

In addition we have planned a **basic level workshop in the Fall for Oct 18**. This will be a morning and afternoon session. This is the time of year when new people who join in September are feeling a bit overwhelmed and this workshop will give them some time to review. Please, everyone, mark your calendar. We hope everyone will come out for this. Helping new dancers improves your dancing! (There are three levels of proficiency; first is learning your moves, second is holding your own in the square and the third is being able to help others without losing your focus and keeping the square from breaking down. Until you are proficient in all of these you should not consider moving to another level).

Our **Theme nights**  will continue as our members have indicated they like these. We will use some of the suggestions people gave in the survey. **Upcoming on March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. Wear your green!** 

We will continue to arrange transportation to a couple of outside dances each year. This spring we will be putting on a coach to the **Belleville Apple Blossom dance on Sunday, April 27**. Please refer to our flyer table to see what dances are coming up. Here is a brief list but for more details, look for a flyer. Most of these dances are suitable for basic and mainstream dancers. You can see details about most of them if you go to <http://www.td-dance.ca/>. Kingston and Belleville fall under the eastern Ontario district; go to <http://www.eodance.ca/>. It is worth going to both sites to learn about what is going on in the square dance world.

Saturday, March 15, Kingston 7-10pm - **NO** basic at this dance
Saturday, March 22, Thornhill 7-9:30pm
Tuesday, March 25, Baltimore 7:30-9:30pm
Saturday, March 29, Guelph 7:30-10pm
Saturday, April 5, Keswick 2-4:40pm
Saturday, April 12, Peterborough **SPRING SPREE** 2-5pm and 7-10:30pm
Sunday, April 27, Belleville 1:30-4:30pm - sign up for the coach transportation \$10pp. Depart 11:30am
Saturday, May 3, Etobicoke. Caller's showcase 2-9:30pm. **NO** basic at this dance
Saturday, May 10, Thornhill 7-9:30pm

As requested in the survey, minutes of the executive committee will be posted in the red binder. Also in response to the survey, our evening now finishes at 9:30pm. Mostly basic from 7-9pm, with the last half hour full mainstream.

Please make sure you sign up to help in the kitchen.  If everyone takes a turn making the tea/coffee and cleaning up after, it is not a heavy burden for any one person. Speak to Lynda or Antoinette.

Hearing assist . There is no need for anyone not to hear the caller. The club has a hearing assist device which is available for anyone to use. If you need it on a regular basis you should purchase your own personal receiver. Speak to Gord Moore or Howard Lander.

Spring Spree, hosted by Lift Lock, is coming up on **Saturday, April 12**. There are four halls so both our basic and our mainstream dancers have their own hall. Please try and come out to this fun event. For those who have never been, it is an afternoon and evening dance and is attended by about 350 people. The four callers will keep you entertained! Wayne Hare has ribbons and you save by buying in advance.

Festival 2014. The **National Square Dance Convention** will take place this year in July in Ottawa. I hope many of our members will make the effort to attend this. Not only is it fun to join in with dancers from all over Canada and the USA (and a few from Europe), but to dance to many different callers, hear the wide variety of music many of them use today (yes, we have danced to Beethoven's 5th symphony!) and just experience being with other people who enjoy square dancing. There is a dedicated hall for each level so if you are a basic dancer, there will be a hall for you. Don't think because you are a new dancer you can't go. Also singles are welcome and there will be a singles social to meet other singles. However at the basic and mainstream levels it is probably better to try and arrange a



partner beforehand. As most of you know, Otonabee Squares has organized a coach/hotel package. This will leave on the morning of Thursday, July 17th and return Sunday, July 20th. See this link for the Festival <http://www.festival2014.ca/>. Their latest newsletter contains a lot of information. Our package has been reduced to \$330 per person and if we fill the bus, will be reduced further. The cut-off for booking this is April 14. After that time I have to release all surplus hotel space. We have a limited number of rooms available for people who intend driving themselves. Cost is \$135 per room per night, minimum 3 nights. (Parking is \$20 per day). Registering for the Convention is done directly with Festival 2014. The price goes up on April 1st so register now! I had hoped to book a party room for an after-party on Saturday night, July 19th but there is a significant cost involved so that idea was, unfortunately, canned. After parties are part of the fun of Convention! The National Conventions do not take place every year, the last one was in Halifax 4 years ago. The next may be out west in 2-4 years.



Last year our club supported Joe Uebelacker's Caller School to the tune of about \$250. This year we have voted to offer one scholarship of \$200. Should there be more than one **successful applicant** to caller school, the \$200 will be shared between them. If you are interested in the scholarship, please either go to our website for further information or speak to one of the presidents. The application for the scholarship and the criteria for consideration are online at www.otonabeesquares.org. If you want a hard copy, please ask one of the presidents. If you want more information about the caller school, speak to Joe Uebelacker 705-657-9084 or email at cchsoap@yahoo.ca. There are other scholarships offered by our district and the Ontario Federation.



This year marks our club's **5th Anniversary**. To celebrate we will be holding an anniversary party at the **Summer Picnic** which will take place on **Sunday, July 27** at the home of Howard and Jean Lander. We will be inviting all those who have danced with our club since it's inception in September 2009. More details later.

We are reviewing the club's **Bylaws** and if you have any suggestions of changes you think may be necessary, please get in touch with either Margaret Kean at dm.kean@sympatico.ca 705 749 6284 or Howard Lander at hjlander@gmail.com 905 342 5450. You can see the Bylaws on the website www.otonabeesquare.org. If you require a hard-copy, please contact Howard. The committee will meet at the end of March to discuss your suggestions. The draft Bylaws, with amendments, will be circulated to the membership in April and the final product will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting which is schedule for May 12th.

Starting 12th April, Joe Uebelacker will be running a teach session for new dancers. This will be in Newcastle; Sunday afternoons, 2-4pm. If you know anyone who is interested, please contact Joe. 705-657-9084 or email at cchsoap@yahoo.ca. This is held in the clubhouse at Wilmot Creek village but you need a code to enter the complex so if you want to go you have to get this from Noella Smith 905 419-1936 or from Joe. He is also teaching round dancing at these sessions.

Monday, June 2, 7-9:30pm. Joe Uebelacker will be doing a Mainstream Dance by Definition - All Position workshop. St. Anne's Parish Hall, 859 Barnardo Ave. You must be a confident mainstream dancer to attend. He will be expanding on all the moves up to the mainstream level and teaching moves from different positions. If you plan to attend it would be a good idea to review the definitions of the basic and mainstream moves. These can be found at <http://www.callerlab.org/DancePrograms/DanceProgramDocuments/>

Our next executive meeting will take place on April 7th. If there is any issue you wish to bring to the executive's attention, please speak to Jennifer Moore.

Please refer to the Calendar which was distributed recently. It contains all our up-coming events including the summer dance scheduled.