
ALL A FLUTTER

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December 2024 & January 2025

Dances

The December 7, 2024 Is CANCELED!! Club Travel to the Cougar Squares Thankful Christmas Dance with Jim Raupp calling and Susan Healea cueing. To get a ride please contact Dan Bode. Dinner is at 6:00 with dancing at 7:00.

The December 21, 2024 dance will have Glenn Raiha calling with Mary Parsons cueing. Dance starts at 6:30 with pre-rounds. Theme is Holiday Dance. Hosts are club members.

The January 4, 202 dance CANCELED. Happy New Year!

The January 18, 2025 dance is "Angel Appreciation. Glenn Raiha calling and Rochelle Catt cueing. Dance starts at 6:30 with pre-rounds. Squares at 7:00. Club members are hosting.

Holiday Party

The Flutterwheels Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, Dec 8th from 1-4 at the Raiha home. Nancy is also looking for a few volunteers to help decorate their home on the previous weekend - either Friday, Saturday or Sunday after Thanksgiving. Let her know if you might be available.

ALL DANCES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!! PLEASE WATCH FOR EMAILS FROM NANCY RAIHA

You can sign up to be a host for our dances on the Flutterwheels Dance Plan. It is found under Flutterwheels/Resources at this site: <http://www.olympiasquaredance.com/clubs>. It also contains info on the callers, cuers, and themes. The same place also has the links to club handbook and other club information.

Words from our Co-Presidents



Hello fellow Flutterwheels.

Depending on when you read this, I hope you have or had a great Thanksgiving Day.

The next 2 months we will continue to be busy, but have a bit of a different schedule.

We will go "dark" at the hall on December 7th, and travel to the Cougar Squares "Thankful Christmas" dance in Toledo as we have done multiple years. The dinner starts at 6 pm. We will meet in the parking lot by Panda Express in Tumwater (Fred Meyer's) to carpool there. We will leave the parking lot at 5:15 pm.

The very next day, Glenn and Nancy are hosting their annual Holiday Party for Flutterwheels and friends. So Sunday the 8th, plan to be there for the party that will be from 1 pm until 4 pm (to give time to get to the hall for the dance that evening). It will be a potluck as usual, and I'm sure the white elephant gift exchange will be as entertaining as it has in the past.

December 31st will be the Annual New Year's Eve dance. Tickets are available now, so make sure to get them. Because many members will be attending and helping with this dance, we decided to go "dark" on January 4th.

Lastly, I had a few members approach me about when our next club meeting will be. I talked it over with Dan, and we will meet Monday evening January 6th for dinner. More details to follow. But mark your calendars now that you are busy that night. Email me (deberr@aol.com) or Dan Bode

(dansblues@msn.com) by December 29th any items you'd like to see on the agenda.

Excited to see you all at some, or all of these activities. And, however you celebrate, I hope you have a great holiday season.

Debby Ferrell Co-President

360-259-2057



Caller's Corner

I was totally surprised at the turnout for my 75th Birthday Dance. I think it is the largest party I have ever had in all my 75 years on this earth. I cannot thank everyone enough for coming and for all the thoughtful cards I received, even the 1950 Learn How to Square Dance book I received. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't thank Leslie and Steve Noseck who drove down to help me call the dance. As you know Steve is one of my closest caller friends and I always enjoy sharing the stage with him. I had hoped to get around and thank everyone individually, but the crowd was so large I know I missed some of you. So here is a belated thank you for making my birthday so special. And of course, to Nancy's talented family of musician who made it possible for everyone to be able to dance to live music. It is an evening I will remember for a very long time.

If you enjoyed dancing to Steve, make sure you buy tickets for Lac-A-Do's New Years Eve Dance. Steve will be the featured caller, and I know he will give you a great dance. Tickets are available through the club. Just ask Dan Bode how you can get your tickets. A great way to bring in 2025 with all of your square dance family.

I'll close by wishing everyone a happy holiday season and hope to see you at the Flutterwheels Holiday Party at our house on Sunday Dec 8th. Lots of great food and our gift exchange brings many surprises and lots of laughter. Don't miss!

See you on the dance floor

Glenn



Nancy's Notes

Two classes graduating: We are so proud of the two wonderful classes finishing up at this time.

Thank you all SO much for your ongoing support. The big Thursday class has finished Lesson 10 and will graduate on Thursday December 5th. The Monday class will have lesson 10 on Dec 16th and graduate on Saturday night December 28th Now is the time for them to dance, dance, dance, practice and refine their skills. We have workshops planned to give plenty of opportunities for practice. Please be extra encouraging and welcoming.

New classes in January and February. Yes, friends, it's already time to start publicizing our January and February lessons. We have posters at the Hall and LOTS of cards for you to distribute. You can talk to your friends at holiday gatherings. Or give a gift certificate for square dance lessons. Remember – it's a GREAT New Year's resolution for more fun, friendly people, and good exercise for mind and body,

December Schedule – All lessons, graduations, workshops - with Flutterwheels events thrown in.

- Thursday DEC 5 – Thursday Class GRADUATION – \$5 suggested donation for everyone (\$3 youth; \$13 family). If you can't pay, come anyway.
- Sunday DEC 8 – Flutterwheels Holiday Party at the Raiha's. 1-4 pm
- Monday – DEC 9 – Lesson # 9
- Thursday DEC 12 – WORKSHOP
- Monday – DEC 16 – Lesson # 10
- Thursday – DEC 19 – WORKSHOP
- Saturday – DEC 21 – Flutterwheels Holiday Dance (BELIEVE Scott Parsons plans to set up one of his

amazing model train dioramas)

- Sat Dec 28 – Monday Class
GRADUATION – Dance with rounds.

January highlights – I suspect there will be some more workshops, but here are the big things.

- First workshop of 2025 – TBD – Jan 2, 4 or 6.
- Thursday JAN 9 – Free Introduction to Square Dancing
- Thursday – JAN 16 – Lesson # 1
- Saturday – Jan 18 – Angel Appreciation Dance

Both months - Don't forget Marc's Thursday reviews at 1:30 pm

Holiday Party

You're invited! To the Flutterwheels Gala Holiday Party!

- 1-4 pm Sunday December 8th
- It will be a great time for a festive lunch & party. We will have a ham & rolls. And hot spiced cider, tea, & coffee. The rest is potluck. Bring anything you think will go well, & anything different you'd like to drink. Family is welcome.
- We will do our famous white elephant gift exchange. Each person should bring a wrapped gift to exchange – white elephant or low cost. There are always some surprises and special appearances.
- It will be at the Raiha home, 5538 Marian DR NE, Olympia. We will leave the garage open so you can enter that way – it can be easier if it rains. Phone is 360.438.1284 if you get lost.
- Parking is limited. It's OK to park in the driveway. You can fit four cars across. Park behind someone you know and let

them know you're blocking. There is also a large grass lot 2 houses to the left, and partially under a street light. Wear shoes suitable for walking on grass. Carpooling is encouraged.

Sou'Wester Council

The Council meeting on November 12, 2024. It was reported that the Council made 3317.22 after all expenses from the 2024 state festival.

It was also approved to start a program to earn a dangle called "All Around Dancer". It is earned by attending all club dances in the council. To get a form to be filled out and signed, please see Dan Bode or Debby Ferrell.

Avery Lavair the State Vice President attended the meeting and asked for help with the 2026 State Festival. After discussion, it was approved to help Peninsula Council host the 2026 State Festival in Ocean Shores July 15-18, 2026 at the Convention Center.

The Council dance on November 30, 2024 at the Washington Elementary School at 3003 Cherry Street. in Hoquiam with Leo Catt and Marie Wood. The dance starts at 7:00 with Plus level. Mainstream at 8:00. Cost is \$8.00.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ed Currall - Dec. 2
Teresa Stephenson – Dec. 6
Maria Stock - Dec. 8
Debbie Ferrell – Dec. 9
Oonaugh Foster-Bill – Dec. 9
Ava Pemberthy - -Dec. 12
Joyce Mielitz – Dec. 13
Becky Brewer – Dec. 23
Lloyd Holcomb – Dec. 25
Pete Murray – Dec. 28
Candi Sponberg – Dec. 30
Claudia Murray – Jan. 3
Grace Marie- Jan. 3
AmyLu Thompson – Jan. 10
Jasper Shayler – Jan. 14

Dale Wetsig – Jan. 16
Margaret Fuller – Jan. 24 (98)

Anniversaries

Grace Maria & Spouse – January 3
Dave & Linda Mabey – January 9

Please be sure that Georgine (gwoolcock48@gmail.com) has your birthday & Anniversary information so that we can acknowledge you on your special day!!

Sunshine

Jutta sent get well cards to: Janessa Randall and a thinking of you card to Teri Eagle.

To have Jutta send a card to someone, please send her an email at wabingajutta@gmail.com. Her phone number is 360-819-7633. It would be helpful if you could give her an address.

New Members

The club would like to welcome Linda Comer, Jessica & Eva Van Woerkom, and Sally Taylor. We are glad to have you join us and hope that you have a wonderful experience and continue to enjoy our club and dancing for years to come.

New Year Eve 2024

The New Years Eve committee is working hard. Get your tickets now. The theme is “Celebrating New Years across the USA” with a toast at all three time zones. Featured Caller is Steve Noseck with Marie Wood cueing. A-Dancing starts at 7:00, 7:30 to 8:00 is pre-rounds and Mainstream dancing starts at 8:00 with Plus every third tip. Cost will be \$20.00 adult, \$10.00 youth under 18 or \$55.00 per family. If you need tickets contact Dan Bode or Curt Leigh at 360-491-4689.

Lessons

Graduation for the Thursday class will be on Dec 5, 2024 at 6:30. Congratulation to this group of wonderful dancers.

Future Events

Future State Festival:

72nd Washington State Festival will be July 14-15, 2025, hosted by Central Area Council at the Yakima Convention Center with Hunter Keller from Montana as featured caller. Doug & Leslie Dodge will be the featured Cuers. Get registered now at www.squaredance-wa.org

Future National Conventions:

74th National Convention will be June 25-28, 2025, in Shreveport, Louisiana

75th National Convention – June 25- 27, 2026 in Waco, Texas.

76th National Convention – June 23-26, 2027 in Loveland, Colorado

(For more information see the Footnotes magazine on the state website.

Future US West Convention

USA West Convention – July 23-26, 2025 in Spokane WA at the Spokane Fair and Expo Center with lots of RV parking. (This convention is only held when the National convention is east of the Mississippi River.) For Info on this convention: See Jen at: generalchair@washington.usawest.net

Leadership Seminar

Leadership Seminar will again be held in conjunction with the 2025 State Festival in Yakima WA

Calendar of Events

Nov, 28, 2024 Happy Thanksgiving.

Nov. 29, 2024 Black Friday – Happy Shopping

Nov. 30, 2024 Council dance Washington School
Hoquiam WA, 7:00

Dec. 2, 2024 Monday class. 6:30

Dec. 5, 2024- Graduation for September Class. 6:30

Dec. 7, 2024 Thankful Christmas Dance. Cougar Squares. 6:00 pm Dinner
 Dec. 8, 2024 Flutterwheels Christmas Party – Raiha’s 1:00 pm
 Dec. 9, 2-024 Monday Class. 6:30
 Dec. 16, 2024 Monday Class. 6:30
 Dec. 21, 2024 Flutterwheels dance – 6:30 pm.
 Dec. 25, 2024 Merry Christmas
 Dec. 26, 2024 Boxing Day – Hanukkah
 Dec. 31, 2024 New Years Day Dance
 Jan. 1, 2025 Happy New Year
 Jan. 4, 2025 Flutterwheels - CANCELED
 Jan. 6, 2025 Epiphany – 3 Kings Day
 Jan. 9, 2025 First Night Squares – Bring a friend 6:30
 Jan. 16, 2025 First Lesson – 6:30 (Bring a Friend)
 Jan. 18, 2025 Flutterwheels Dance – Angel Appreciation Dance – 6:30 pm
 Jan. 20, 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Jan. 23, 2025 Beginning Squares
 Jan. 29, 2025 Chinese New Year
 Feb. 1, 2025 Flutterwheels Dance – 7:00pm

Story of the Month

The Extra Jesus

About a week before Christmas, the family bought a new Nativity scene. When they unpacked it they found two figures of the Baby Jesus. “Someone must have packed this wrong,” the Mother said, counting out the figures. “We have one Joseph, one Mary, three Wise Men, three shepherds, two lambs, a donkey, a cow, an angel, and two babies. Oh, dear! I suppose some set down at the store is missing a Baby Jesus, because we have two.”

You two run back down to the store and tell the manager that we have an extra Jesus. Tell him to put a sign on the remaining boxes saying that if a set is missing a Baby Jesus to call 7126... Put on your warm coats, it’s freezing cold out there.

The manager of the store copied down the Mother’s message and the next time they were in the store they saw the cardboard sign that read, “If you’re missing Baby Jesus, call 7126...”

All week long they waited for someone to call. Surely, they thought, someone was missing that important figurine. Each time the phone rang Mother would say, “I’ll bet that’s about Jesus,” but it never was.

Father tried to explain there are thousands of these scattered over the country and the figurine could be missing from a set in Florida or Texas, or California. Those packing mistakes happen all the time. He suggested that we should just put the extra Jesus back in the box and forget about it.

“Put Baby Jesus back in the box!! What a terrible thing to do,” said the children. “Surely someone will call,” Mother said. “We’ll just keep the two of them together in the manger until someone calls.”

When no call had come by 5:00 on Christmas Eve, Mother insisted that Father “Just run down to the store” to see if there were any sets left. “You can see them right through the window, over on the counter,” she said. If they are gone, I’ll know someone is bound to call tonight.” “Run down to the store?” Father thundered. “It’s 15 below zero out there!” Oh, Daddy, we’ll go with you,” as Tommy and Mary began to put on their coats. Father gave a long sigh as he headed for the front closet. “I can’t believe I’m doing this,” he muttered.

Tommy and Mary ran ahead as Father reluctantly walked out in the cold. Mary got to the store first and pressed her nose up to the store window. “They’re all gone, Daddy, she shouted. “Every set must be sold.” “Hooray, Tommy said. “The mystery will now be solved tonight!”

Father heard the news still a half block away and immediately turned on his heel and headed back home. When they got back into the house, they noticed that Mother was gone and so was the extra Baby Jesus figurine. “Someone must have called and she went out to deliver the figurine,” my Father reasoned, pulling off his boots. “You kids get ready for bed while I wrap Mother’s present.

Then the phone rang. Father yelled, “Answer the phone and tell’em we found a home for Jesus.” But it was Mother calling with instructions for us to come to 205 Chestnut Street immediately and bring three blankets, a box of cookies and some milk... “Now what has she gotten us into?” my Father groaned as we bundled up again. “205 Chestnut. Why that’s across town!! Wrap that milk up good in the blankets or it will turn to ice before we get there. Why can’t we all just get on with Christmas? It’s probably 20 below out there now. And the wind is picking up. Of all the crazy things to do on a night like this.”

When they got to the house at 205 Chestnut Street it was the darkest one on the block. Only one tiny light burned in the living room and, the moment we set foot on the porch steps, my Mother opened the door and shouted, "They're here, Oh thank God you got here, Ray! You kids take those blankets into the living room and wrap the little ones on the couch. I'll take the milk and cookies."

"Would you mind telling me what is going on, Ethel?" my Father asked. We have just walked through zero weather with the wind in our faces all the way." "Never mind all that now," my Mother interrupted. "There is no heat in this house and this young mother is so upset she doesn't know what to do. Her husband walked out on her, and those poor little children will have a very bleak Christmas, so don't you complain. I told her you could fix that oil furnace in a jiffy."

My mother strode off to the kitchen to warm the milk while my brother and I wrapped up the five little children who were huddled together on the couch. The children's mother explained to my Father that her husband had run off, taking the bedding and almost every piece of furniture, but she had been doing all right until the furnace broke down.

"I been doin' washin' and ironin' for people and cleanin' the Five and Dime store," she said. "I saw your number every day there on those boxes on the counter. When the furnace went out, that number kept going through my mind. 7162. 7162... It said on the box that if a person was missing Jesus, they should call you. That's how I knew you were good Christian people, willin' to help folks. I figured that maybe you would help me too. So I stopped at the grocery store tonight and called your missus. I'm not missing Jesus, mister, because I sure love the Lord. But I am missin' heat. I have no money to fix that furnace."

"Okay, Okay," said Father. "You've come to the right place. Now, let's see. You've got a little oil burner over in the dining room. Shouldn't be too hard to fix, probably just a clogged flue. I'll look it over, see what it needs."

Mother came into the living room carrying a plate of cookies and warm milk. As she set the cups down on the coffee table, I noticed the figure of Baby Jesus lying in the center of the table. It was the only sign of Christmas in the house. The children stared wide-eyed with wonder at the plate of cookies my Mother set before them.

Father finally got the oil burner working but said, "You need more oil. I'll make a few calls tonight and get some. Yes sir, you came to the right place," Father grinned. On the way home Father did not complain about the cold weather, and had barely set foot inside the door when he was on the phone. "Ed, hey, how are ya, Ed? Yes, Merry Christmas to you too. Say Ed, we have kind of an unusual situation here. I know you've got that pick-up truck. Do you still have some oil in that barrel on your truck? You do?"

By this time the rest of the family were pulling clothes out of their closets and toys off their shelves. It was long after their bedtime when they were wrapping gifts. The pickup came. On it were chairs, three lamps, blankets and gifts. Even though it was 30 below, Father let us ride along in the back of the truck.

No one ever did call about the missing figure in the Nativity set, but as I grow older, I realize that it wasn't a packing mistake at all. Jesus saves, that's what He does.

Author unknown

