Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar

The sixth annual Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar will be held on Saturday and Sunday just prior to the start of the 2006 CALLERLAB Convention at the Renaissance Suites Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina. The seminar will start at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, April 8 and end at 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, April 9. Cost will be $25 per leader. Spouses and/or partners will be admitted free. Checks should be made payable to CALLERLAB and sent to 467 Forrest Ave., Suite 118, Cocoa, Florida 32922.

At this time we have the following staff members scheduled to make presentations. Here is a brief synopsis of the topics to be presented. The order is yet to be determined.

Calvin Campbell will discuss his AAHPERD presentation designed for classroom teachers without dance experience. He will explain how he uses just five basics (Circle L/R, Forward and Back, Star R/L, Arm Turns and Pass Thru). Afterwards he will ask for suggestions about the selection of dances and for more ideas about what else could be done with these moves.

Yona Chock will present a short form of her presentation for the AAHPERD National Convention on Dancing Through Colonial American History.

Ron Counts & Kit Galvin will discuss details about their Community Dance Program in Colorado Springs, including publicity, choreography, and music.

Dave Fullaway will present several Traditional Square Dances.

Betsy Gotta will discuss school presentations of one class period to introduce square dancing to elementary or high school students. Her goal is to give the best possible impression of square dancing in a short time.

Jerry Helt will show some different ways to use Jiffy Mixer and other dances.

Chuck Jaworski will present some dances that can be used in elementary schools.

Bob Riggs will discuss using programming, planning and communication to ensure a successful event in spite of unexpected situations.

Stew Shacklette will show some contra dances with automatic crossovers that do not have to be prompted.

Otto Warteman will present several dances and also show some quick ways to transition between formations and dances.

Jim Wass will follow up on last year’s presentation of the belief system with execution of that system through the lifecycle of a BDP event. This includes getting contacts, negotiations, dance presentation, facilitating their event, dealing with changes, closing the event, and follow up.

Discover and Share CCTD Dances During The 2006 CALLERLAB Convention

Sunday Afternoon Pre-Convention CCTD Community Dance (3-5 pm)

Plan to adjust from traveling mode to dancing mode by attending the usual Sunday Afternoon Community Dance. Please bring one or more dances to share and sign up with M.C. Bob Riggs when you arrive.

Monday Evening Contra and Traditional Dance

Contra Prompters and Traditional Dance enthusiasts are invited to bring one or more dances to present during this event. Community Dances are also acceptable. Please sign up with M. C. Calvin Campbell.
Swiss Break Variation

Idea from Stew Shacklette’s “Easy Mixers 2003”
(Presented at the 2003 BDPLS in San Antonio, TX)

Usage Comment: This is a wonderfully simple way to get brand new dancers moving to the music very quickly. Adjust it to be a mixer or not as desired.

Formation: Circle of Couples facing counterclockwise. Normally the lady is on the gent’s right side. If not used as a mixer than any pairing is fine.


Prompts:
Intro - - - -, - - Walk 8
1-8 - - - -, - - Back Away 4 & Clap
9-16 - - Forward to partner, - - Star Right
17-24 - - - -, - - Star Left
25-32 - - - -, - - Walk 8

Description:
1-8 Couples walk forward counterclockwise in the big circle 8 steps.
9-12 Dancers in each couple individually turn 1/4 to face each other. They back away 3 steps (the inside dancer backs towards the center of the circle), and clap their own hands on the 4th beat of music.
13-16 Dancers walk forward 4 steps back to their partner meeting with a 2-hand Right-Hand Star (elbows bent, right-hands up palm-to-palm).
17-24 Partners Star Right once around in 8 steps.

To keep partners together:
25-32 Dancers turn around and Star Left with their partner back around 8 steps adjusting at the end ready to walk forward again.

To use the dance as a mixer:
25-32 Dancers end the Right-Hand Star with the outside dancer facing in and the inside dancer facing out. They then make a 2-hand Left-Hand Star with the dancer on the other side of them. The original outside dancer moves clockwise while the inside dancer moves counterclockwise around the big circle. They turn the Left-Hand Star approximately once around adjusting at the end ready to walk forward again with this new partner.
Square Dance

The Versatile Star

Beginning dancers, especially youth dancers or adults in a group of strangers, are often more comfortable with the finger tip contact of Stars than they are with the hand hold of Circles or the forearm hold of Allemande Left. Have you considered how versatile the Star action can be? Corners Star Left can be used for Allemande Left. Star Half (right or left) and face in can replace Right & Left Thru.

Explain to the dancers that they should focus on another dancer in their star to avoid becoming dizzy.

Jennie’s Stars

(Choreographer unknown, perhaps you can tell us.)

Presented at 2000 CALLERLAB in Las Vegas, NV

Usage Comment: This could be repeated 4 times as a stand alone quadrille, or used as a singing call figure. There is no partner change in this routine.

Formation: Square

Music: Something smooth with clear 8-beat phrasing.

Prompts:

Intro - - - -, - - Gents Star Left
1-8 Ladies Loop - -, - Partners Star Right
9-16 - - - -, - Ladies Star Left
17-24 Gents Loop - -, - Partners Star Right
25-32 - - - -, - Corners Star Left
33-40 - - - -, - Partners Star Right
41-48 - - - -, - Roll Promenade
49-56 - - - -, - -
57-64 - - - -, - Gents Star Left

Description:

1-8 The 4 gents make a Left-Hand Star and turn it once around in the center, while the ladies walk around in a small individual circle to their left.

9-16 Partners make a 2-hand Right-Hand Star and turn it once and a half around to put the ladies into the center of the square.

17-24 The 4 ladies make a Left-Hand Star and turn it once around in the center, while the gents walk around in a small individual circle to their left.

25-32 Partners Star Right once around and a bit more to their corner.

33-40 Corners make a 2-hand Left-Hand Star and turn it until the dancers are back facing their partner.

41-48 Partner Star Right full around until the gents are on the inside facing Promenade direction. The ladies do a tight right-face turn to stand beside their partner ready to Promenade.

49-64 Partners Promenade once around the square.

Sicilian Circle

Best Friend Sicilian

Source: The star idea used in the first 32 beats came from an English Country Contra usually danced to waltz music called “A Girl’s Best Friend”.

Usage comment: Sicilian Circles are often used as a second formation following a big circle start at Beginner Parties. Please see discussion on the next page.

Formation: Couples facing couples like spokes of a wheel. One couple is facing clockwise, the other couple is facing counterclockwise around the big circle.

Music: Something with clear 8-beat phrasing, a good clap section, and not too fast.

Prompts:

Intro - - - -, - Each 4 Star Right
1-8 - - - -, - Partners Star Right
9-16 - Then turn away, - - Each 4 Star Left
17-24 - - - -, - Partners Star Left
25-32 - Then turn away, - - Partner Claps
33-40 - - - -, - Opposite Claps
41-48 - - - -, - Opposites Star Left
49-56 - - - -, - and on to next
57-64 - - - -, - Each 4 Star Right

Description:

1-8 Each facing group of 4 dancers make a 4-hand Right-Hand Star and turn it once around.

9-16 Readjust the star handhold to be just partner pairs and 2-hand Star Right once around (flirt a bit if appropriate) in 4 beats. Then partners turn away from each other and walk 4 steps around in a small left-face circle.

17-24 The same group of 4 dancers make a 4-hand Left-Hand Star and turn it once around.

25-32 Readjust the star handhold to be just partner pairs and 2-hand Star Left once around in 4 beats. Then partners turn away from each other and walk 4 steps around in a small right-face circle to end facing each other.

33-40 Slap knees twice, clap own hands twice, clap partner’s hands 3 times, on the 8th beat each dancer turns to face their opposite dancer. (Couples are now in their starting position.)

41-48 Repeat the clap sequence with the opposite dancer. On the 8th beat make a 2-hand Left-Hand Star with the same dancer.

49-56 Star Left once around then continue the same motion passing left shoulders and letting go.

57-64 Partners move on to meet a new couple and Bow to them ready to begin again.
**Contra**

**Good Girl (Traditional)**

**Usage Comment:** This contra was suggested by Betsy Gotta during the 2005 BDPLS for use with Seniors. The active lady lead out to a line is an unusual idea and dances very smoothly.

**Formation:** Contra Lines. Couples 1, 3, 5 etc. active and crossed over.

**Prompts:**

- **Intro** - - - - , Face corner, Balance & Swing
- **1-8** - - - - , Groups of 4 Circle Left
- **9-16** - - - - , - - Circle Right
- **17-24** Active lady lead out to a line, Down the center 4 in line
- **25-32** - - - - , Wheel Around, Come Back
- **33-40** - - - - , Bend the Line, Ladies Chain
- **41-48** - - - - , - - Chain Back
- **49-56** - - - - , - - Forward and Back - -
- **57-64** - - - - , Face corner, Balance & Swing

**Cross at the ends when neutral**

**Description:**

1-8 All dancers face their corner (Gents look to left, Ladies look to right) Balance (forward, touch, back, touch in 4 beats) & Swing (4 beats). End the Swing facing in with the lady on the right.

9-16 Each group of 4 Circle Left 8 beats.

17-24 Same 4 Circle Right 8 beats, active lady release right hand hold and pull the circle out into a line facing away from the prompter.

25-32 Line of 4 walk down the hall away from the prompter for 6 steps.

33-40 Each pair Wheel Around by turning half around as a couple counter-clockwise (men backup, ladies walk forward). The line of 4 reform and walk 6 steps up the hall towards the prompter.

41-48 The two couples in each line turn to face each other adjusting smoothly into a Ladies Chain.

49-56 Same 2 Ladies Chain back.

57-64 Long lines walk forward 3 steps & touch, backup 3 steps & touch.

**Second and following sequences:**

When a couple reaches the end and does not have a corner for the Balance and Swing, they exchange places ready to reenter the action after one sequence. The active ladies continue to be active each time until they reach the foot of the set. Active couples become inactive when they reach the bottom. In this dance they may enjoy a long Swing with each other before leading the lines of 4 down the hall and using the Wheel Around to accomplish their exchange. Inactive couples become active when they reach the top.

**Note:** The Wheel Around may be replaced with a California Twirl (partners raise joined hands, turn to face each other, pass right shoulders with the lady ducking under the joined hands, and continue turning to end side-by-side facing the opposite direction).