

## **News From Geauga County, Ohio**

Accelerated Class

The Hubs Square Dance Club

(March 2005)

This report is from the Hubs Square dance Club in Geauga County, Ohio and their caller, Ray Miller. It concerns the Hubs and their accelerated square dance class for the season 2004-05. The club started the class in October 2004 and continued through the last Monday in February 2005 with graduation on Monday March 6, 2005. Each class was three hours long and scheduled from 7 -10 PM. With the help of some very dedicated angles we were able to cover a large amount of material, using the CALLERLAB teaching list, each night and still have time for a great deal of review.

Each class, after the first few, started with two singing calls to relax the new dancers and to review the basic figures used in most singing calls as they became familiar with them. New calls were introduced, not in the suggested teaching order but in an order that the instructor (Ray Miller) deemed appropriate for the group.

In Early March 2005 the Group finished the Plus Program after only 48 hours of class time. This will enable the new dancers to attend regular club dances for the remaining three months of this dance season and to enjoy a high level of success on the floor.

The purpose of this accelerated program was to enable our new dancers to join with club members at their regular club dances this year instead of being forced to wait until next dance season to join with the club. These new dancers have been dancing at various club level dances for the last month and have experienced a high level of success. A brief discussion with the caller for the night insured that they would not be exposed to calls that they have not had yet. Callers were most receptive to this suggestion and were most cooperative.

The benefit of this program is that the new dancers will not be forced to wait for next fall to take full advantage of this wonderful activity. One of the biggest problems in this area is the lack of a Mainstream dance program at local clubs. This makes it very difficult for new dancers to achieve any degree of success in the fall. In this area there are no summer Plus workshops and as a result clubs are forced to try to rush new dancers through the Plus list and then turn them loose to fail. The result has been a failure to retain new dancers.

Ray Miller is hopeful this three hour program will help to alleviate the drop out rate. It is hoped that getting the new dancers into club activities earlier will encourage them to stay in the activity when the dancing resumes next year. Ray does not claim this adaptation will work with every club. This club has devoted angels who showed up every night and were themselves accomplished dancers. This had a lot to do with our success. The one great advantage with this plan as opposed to the traditional plan, was the amount of time it provided for review before moving on to the next call. It might be worth a try in your area. What do we have to loose.

Ray Miller

The Hubs Square Dance Club