

Session “Basic 1 & 2”

2011 Convention (Las Vegas)

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Background: Pep.-Gunma Pref. Branch, JSDA, Inc., calling at 3 MS clubs and 4 groups of P, A, and C.

Gunma Pref. (88 members/5 clubs), one of the 6 remote branches under the K-K District Branch (7,347 members/218 clubs), under J.S.D.A.(14,495 members/486 clubs), as of May 2010. See Page 3

1	What is your area's first language spoken?	<u>Japanese. Very few speaks English in Japan.</u>
2	What language are your classes taught in? If not English, do you teach English “key” words?	<u>Japanese. Yes: X</u> Call names are considered as the “codenames” to tell dancers what the expected movements are. In the classes, the movements and related terminology/wording is taught in Japanese language. Supplementary calls and the instructions in English are quite difficult for Japanese dancers to respond, so that many of those words are put into Japanese in my calling.
3	What is the Entry level for dance clubs? Mainstream Plus	<u>B-40 in my case.</u> The “Community-25,” proposed by JSDA and/or “B-40”, the two subsets of Basic program are now being applied as the call groups which should be taught first. If the dancers want to go further, I would continue to finish the Full Basic. At this point of time, students are encouraged to register to the national organization of the JSDA.
4	What is the most popular program danced? Mainstream Plus Advanced	I would say MS is the official dance program. The fact I see in recent years is that the Basic(51 calls) is more appropriate if the teaching cycle can be modified. <u>My personal observation in the event dances in Japan:</u> I would say many of the students who begin in their 60's of age would need 24 mos. at shortest to dance MS smoothly.
5	What CALLERLAB programs are called in your area? CDP Basic Mainstream Plus A-1 A-2 C-1 C-2 C-3 C-4	1) As stated in Item 3, “Community-25” is the Japanese version of the Callerlab’s “CDP”. After this, I personally apply “B-40” as the second subsets of calls, in which the Thar and Ocean Wave calls are excluded from Basic Program. 2) Basic has been danced only in the clubs and the Graduation Party, which is jointly held regionally, but not in the JSDA national and district dances. <u>Problem I see in Japan is there is no plateau period for B: after Graduation Party, teaching goes directly to MS. I am holding the second hall in the club dances for B plateau.</u> 3) Up to Plus in the club dances. Note: At more than a half of the clubs in Japan, Plus is taught in the third year. Recent tendency is the special dances are held when dancers request the local callers to teach P, A, and C. <u>We do not dance A1 and A2 separately, which I believe is partly the reason for the healthiness of Japanese SD. The hurdle to go up from P to A is set very high.</u> The JSDA officially support all the dances from MS up to C1. In the National dances, C1 is included. A national convention, the JNACC, which specializes A's and C's, is run on the volunteer basis by dancers.
6	How frequently do your clubs dance? Every Week? Every 2 Weeks?	<u>Every week.</u> Note: Most of the JSDA Clubs dance this way. In my case, the

Once a Month? Other?		teaching and dances on weekdays from P to C2 is bi-weekly.
7	Do your clubs dance all year? If No, what is your typical dance season?	<u>Yes: X</u> Except for the Year End/New Year, May, and August vacation periods. Club dances (2 to 3 hours): 48 times a year.
8	How many new dancer classes does your area run each year? Typical Start Month(s)?	<u>Once/yr. Starts in April, or September(typical).</u> New dancers participate the regional Graduation Party ("Do Sa Do Party") scheduled in the specific month, depending on the regional branches. Note: The period required for the new dancers to master any programs is getting longer. <u>Period for teaching B and MS (currently 6mos. and another 6 mos. respectively) should be re-determined.</u>
9	Do you have access to Caller Training: CALLERLAB Caller Coaches? Local Associations? Mentors? Do you have a new caller succession program? (new trainees)	<u>Yes.</u> The major JSDA district and many of the area branches hold two day Caller Training Classes annually. Since 2009, the JSDA started caller schools jointly sponsored by GSI and JSDA. No Callerlab Accredited Caller Coaches in Japan. Note: I personally hold caller training classes in the clubs I call. <u>Yes.</u> The caller training classes are for the purpose of caller succession.
1 1	What percent of dancers continue to dance after lessons?	<u>Retention %:</u> Hard to answer. See my PPI report submitted to Callerlab Program Policy Committee in 2008. I would answer this way: <u>In Gunma, we have taught well over 300 people in the beginners classes in the past 18 years and we have now 80 members: Dropout rate is high. I have been trying to improve this situation in the past 4 years by using the second dance hall for the beginners: Retention rate greatly increased. Now the teaching period of Basic extended from 6 mos. to 12 mos.</u>
1 2	What is the average age of your dancer population?	Approximately 63 Years Old. Youngest is 49. Oldest 78. I am 71.
1 3	Do your classes encourage Families to participate?	<u>Yes: X</u> . There are five couples out of 50 members. No children, no grandchildren at this moment at this moment.
1 4	Do your classes encourage Singles to participate?	<u>Yes: X</u> Recent tendency: more widows. Note: Male is just 15 %.
1 5	What are your typical class sizes?	5 to10 students/yr. in the past 8 years. Once we had 45 but retention was not good. I know why.
1 6	Over the last 5 years has square dancing in your area; Grown? Stayed Steady? Declined?	<u>Grown by 20 %.</u> I created 4 clubs, intending to give specific callers to more calling opportunity, and 3 callers succeeded my place of chief calling. Note: The entire JSDA has grown by 16 % in 5 yrs.
1 7	Typically do callers in your area support: Local Associations? National Associations? CALLERLAB?	<u>Callers and dancers are normally members of JSDA. Callers support the area branches and District Branches of the JSDA. 16 Callerlab members from Japan.</u> Note: The JSDA is an association which does not distinguish callers from dancers. Callers do not call for money. Callers can expect only the compensation of the expenditure from the clubs. This is one of the peculiar features of Japanese square dancing.
1 8	For awareness and to gain followers would a FACEBOOK site benefit members?	<u>No: X</u> Not at this moment. The JSDA website benefits for Awareness of the organizational efforts. 10 % of the clubs hold their club websites. Our clubs have just started to study the club homepage.

The J.S.D.A., Inc.

Membership/Clubs As of May, 2010

The J.S.D.A., Inc.

Total Membership:14,495
(486 Clubs)

President(1),
Vice President(2),
Head Office Manager(1)
Auditors(2),
Newsletter Editor(1)

Six District Branches

North Island
(Hokkaido) Branch

972 Members / 39 Clubs

North-East
(Tohoku) Branch

896Members / 36Clubs

Kanto-Koshin-etsu
Branch

7,347Memers / 218Clubs

My area ⇒

Central Honshu
(Chubu) Branch

2,147Members / 70 Clubs

Kinki Branch

1,944Members / 57Clubs

West Branch

1,189Members / 66Clubs

Total 50 Area Branches

1 Big Area Branch

6 Area Branches

10 Area Branches

●Tokyo
1934Members /44Clubs

●Kanagawa
1843Members /55Clubs

●Chiba
1665Members /48Clubs

●Saitama
906Members /34Clubs

●Ibaraki
265Members /8Clubs

●Nagano
188Members /9Clubs

●Yamanashi
168Members /6Clubs

●Niigata
155Members /7Clubs

●Gunma
73+15Members /4+1 Clubs

●Tochigi
51Membes /3Clubs

7 Area Branches

6 Area Branches

17 Area Branches

