



A publication of
The CDP Committee
 of
CALLERLAB
 The International Association
 of
 Square Dance Callers

Volume 11 Number 1

February 2002

The CDP Committee Will Sponsor The Third Preconvention Beginner Party Workshop Prior to the 2002 CALLERLAB Convention

Plans are being made for a Beginner Party Seminar to be held March 23rd and March 24th just prior to the start of the Richmond CALLERLAB Convention. The seminar will start at 10:00 AM on Saturday and be finished at 1:00 PM on Sunday.

The following leaders have volunteered to serve. Gregg Anderson, Calvin Campbell, Yona Chock, Jerry Helt, Chuck Jaworski, Jim Mayo, Bob Riggs and Stew Shacklette.

Topics for discussion will include:

1) Introduction to Prompting and Cuing

Cal Campbell will present a practical examination of the organization of music commonly used for square dancing, contra dancing, etc. The session will include numerous examples and the participants will be encouraged to take advantage of practice exercises that will enhance their ability to use different kinds of music. Square dance callers who have never been exposed to this information will find it will enhance their calling abilities.

2) Mixers for Beginners

Bob Riggs will explore several mixers that have proven to be useful at beginner parties.

3) Very Large Beginner Parties

Jerry Helt will share his experiences in conducting Beginner Parties for very large groups of dancers.

4) The Art of the Quick Teach

Most dance actions useful in beginner parties can be communicated with very few words. The instructor will demonstrate how to accomplish this communication with carefully chosen words, actions, and demonstrations.

5) Working with Children in the Elementary School System

There are many innovative ways to design dance programs to appeal to elementary school systems. The instructor will discuss one or more of these approaches.

6) Dance Your Way Through History

Yona Chock will describe her successful dance program in the elementary schools in Hawaii that illustrates history through dancing.

7) Dances With Only Seven Basics

A Round Table Discussion on leading a dance with only seven basics. Circle L/R, Single File Promenade, Couple Promenade, Arm Turns, Stars, DoSaDo & A Wild Cat (Any one additional basic of your choice.)

8) Dance Parties at Church Camps, etc.

Dance parties in schools, church camps, YMCA camps, etc. can be very successful if you know how to handle dancing outdoors, in noisy gyms and other odd places. This panel will

explore special needs these environments require and how to solve the problems.

Registration

\$25 for each leader. Spouses and/or partners are free. Send registration to:

Calvin Campbell

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Castle Rock, CO 80104

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E-mail: cal@eazy.net

CDP Dance To Be Held On Sunday From 3-5 PM

Sunday afternoon, March 24, 2002 is the start of this year's Callerlab Convention in Richmond, VA. The CDP Committee will again host a welcome dance from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Callers who lead CDP or party dances are encouraged to bring music and dances to present. Bob Riggs will MC this session and requests your help in its preparation and presentation. Please contact Bob at 303-741-6375 or RL.Riggs@aol.com with questions, comments or suggestions for this session.

The First Big Circle

by Calvin Campbell

Many callers start beginner parties by having everyone choose partners and join hands in the big circle. Starting in a big circle avoids the problems and the time it takes to get people organized into squares and allows everyone to start dancing very quickly. If the crowd is so large that one circle will not fit into the available space then I have them form several circles.

The big circle formation gives me the opportunity to visually see that everyone is moving together. People are holding hands and they realize for the first time they are dancing together with many other people. It's a natural.

Basic movements that adapt well to a big circle formation include:

Circle Left/Right
Forward & Back
Arm Turns Left/Right
Single File Promenade
Couple Promenade

All these movements can be taught with the music running constantly in the background. Circle Left and Right and Forward & Back require little or no instruction. You might choose to tell the men to turn their palms up, but most men will do this automatically.

Right and Left Arm Turns are very useful in fixing the identity of the partner and the corner. The dancers also have the advantage of maintaining person to person contact and help keep people from wandering off. I generally start out by having each couple do both Right and Left Arms Turns with their partner mixed in with Circles and Forward & Back. In a very short period of time they are moving in and out of the big circle formation and the men are placing the girl consistently on their right hand side.

Then I introduce the idea of turning the person on the other side. Pretty soon they are doing a figure eight pattern with Arm Turns with the partner and the corner. All this is mixed with Circle Left and Right and Forward & Back. Sometimes I have just the ladies or the men go Forward & Back to keep them listening to my instructions rather than memorizing the pattern.

Then I add Single File Promenade and have either the men or the ladies turn around and do a right or left Arm Turn with the person they are facing. I always have them return to their partner. Perhaps with something as simple as shake hands or bow and then return to a big circle. The objective is to get them used to listening to my instructions and to not expect the same thing every time.

Before I organize them into squares, I want to accomplish one more thing. I have them Circle Right and then Promenade Single file with the men behind the ladies. Without stopping the music or the motion I ask the men to step up beside their partner on the inside of the circle and walk along beside their partner. Once I have them all in position, I have them shake right hands as they walk around the floor. From there it is a simple step to have them join left hands under the joined right hands and tell them they are Promenading as a couple, This is all done without stopping or turing the music off.

Now they are ready to be organized into squares. Once in the squares I repeat the same basics adding in a Couple Promenade or a Circle Left or Right to home position. For this first square I keep everyone moving together. To add variety I might have four men or four ladies Promenade Single File or Circle Four, but I make no attempt to identify heads or sides at this time. That comes later. Soon I have occupied 10-12 minutes and they have been dancing constantly. It's time for a break.

- Yes, I plan to attend the 2002 CDP Committee Beginner Party Seminar on March 23rd & 24th.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

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