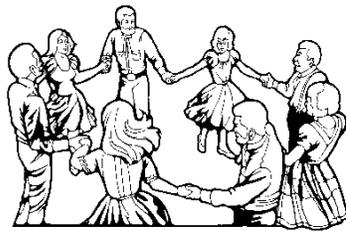


Community Dance



Journal

A publication of

The Committee for Community Dance of CALLERLAB

The International Association
of
Square Dance Callers

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Plans for Beginner Party Seminar

In April of 2003, the CCD and the NDA will host the fourth annual seminar for leaders of Beginner Dance Parties. We are looking for contacts in the Texas and San Antonio area to help us reach callers, teachers and recreation department personnel that might be interested in attending the seminar.

A small flyer has been printed on the last page of this edition of the CD Journal. Feel free to reproduce this flyer and send it to anyone who might be interested in attending the seminar. Since the seminar is held ahead of the

CALLERLAB Convention, membership in CALLERLAB is not necessary to attend.

We are particularly interested in reaching the teachers in local schools who teach dancing or music. We did this last year in the Richmond, VA area and had good results.

If you can find lists or contacts, please relay this information to Calvin Campbell at 343 Turf Lane, Castle Rock, CO 80108 or cal@eazy.net.

CD Journal Circulation Is Above 200

The number of CALLERLAB members choosing to resubscribe to the CD Journal has risen to above 200 at this date. This is down slightly from the previous list, but it is expected that other names will be added in the future.

The members of the BOG automatically receive copies of the CD Journal and were not counted in the subscriber list. This might seem to be a small number of subscribers to some, but it indicates that there is really quite a strong interest in information and material about easy level dancing.

The CALLERLAB home office is looking into the possibility of publishing the CD Journal in electronic form. This would enable an even wider distribution for less cost.

Discussions Are Being Held On Expanding Beginner Party Seminars

Discussions have been opened with the Colorado Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAPHERD) for hosting a special seminar on dance. The format would be similar to the Beginner Party Leader's Seminar held ahead of the CALLERLAB Convention.

The Committee for Community Dance is working with the National Dance Association and CAPHERD to structure the program to meet State and National standards for dance. Once a satisfactory seminar structure is established, the program will be offered to other States.

Traditional Square Dances at Beginner Parties

By Calvin Campbell

Traditional square dances can be a very useful part of beginner dance programs. Visiting couple square dance routines provide an easy and very visual way to teach a dance.

Let's take a look at a simple old figure called, Birdie in the Cage. One active couple will Lead to the Right and Circle Four with the next couple counterclockwise around the set. The active lady is the Bird and the active man is the Crow. To put the Birdie in the Cage, the active lady steps into the middle of the circle of four and the remaining three dancers join hands around her and Circle Three to the left. The call is, "Put the Birdie in the Cage and Three Hands Around."

The next step is to exchange the active man with the active lady. The call is "Birdie Hop Out and the Crow Hop In." If you want to add a little rhyming patter then the caller can add, "He's a pretty good bird for the shape he's in."

To finish it off you have the active man step back out into the circle and one again you Circle Four. When this figure was danced 50 years ago the active couple would then proceed to "visit" each of the other couples in succession and repeat this or another figure. At a beginner party it is often simpler to just have the active couple return to home and then proceed to choose another active couple.

Con't on page #2

The patter for the whole figure might look like this.

**First ol' couple Bow & Swing
Lead Right out to the right of
the ring & Circle Four
Put the Birdie in the Cage &
Three Hands Around
Tweet, Tweet, Tweet
The Birdie hop out & the
Crow hop in
Caw, Caw, Caw
Pretty good bird for the shape
he's In
Crow hop out & your gone
again.
Circle Four
Everybody home & Circle Eight,
etc.**

If you want to have all four couples participate then put the active dancer in the center and Circle Seven. It doesn't really matter what combination you use because they are all fun.

OK! What are the advantages of using a traditional figure such as the one above? First, this is a figure you can demonstrate very quickly. If the remaining couples in the square don't get the pattern the first time they can watch several times before it becomes their turn to be active.

Second, these kinds of dance routines allow people to rest and not have to be actively moving all the time. This can be very important in the middle part of a dance program when the leader detects some people who need slow down a little.

Third, some of the dancers at the party will recognize this kind of figure from their dance experiences in the past. It is part of what they think square dancing should be. It is often part of what they expect to dance when they attend a beginner party.

Another traditional pattern that is very useful at beginner dances is a pattern named the Arkansas Traveler in most books. It is a series of Arm Turns that can have endless variations. This one comes from the Sets in Order

Caller/Teacher Manual Basic Program.

**1st & 3rd men Forward & Back
Now Forward again
Turn the opposite Lady with a
Right Arm Around
Your partner by the left as you
come down
Corners (everyone) with a Right
Arm Around
Partners all with a Left Arm
Around
And Promenade your corner
Around the town**

If you want to do an even simpler pattern use the same idea in a visiting couple dance. Starting with the first gent it looks as follows.

**#1 Gent turn the opposite lady
with a Right Hand Around
Back to your partner with a Left
Hand Around
To the corner Lady with a
Right Hand Around
Back to your partner & Swing**

Patterns like these are great for teaching position names in the square. Once people understand where everyone is located, you can add variety by substituting DoSaDo or a Bow in place of an Arm Turn.

The last traditional figure comes from an old singing call named "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" In this figure, one active couple will Lead to the Right and Circle Four. The active man breaks the circle with his left hand and leads the four to the right to Circle Six. Then the active man breaks again with the left hand and leads six to the last couple to Circle Eight. The patter goes like this.

**First 'Ol couple Lead to the
Right & Circle Four
Take those four on with you &
Circle Six
Take those six on with you &
Circle Eight
Everybody Swing & Promenade**

In this dance, the key to the enjoyment is the repetition of the pattern. Once the first couple has gone through the routine you should not vary the pattern for the next three couples. Let couples 2, 3 and 4 do exactly the same pattern. Pretty soon you have used up an entire record.

As you study these patterns think about how they might also help you in teaching a beginner modern western square dance class. They allow you to have very solid control of the action on the floor. The dancers have an excellent opportunity to learn by observation. They reinforce the identification of the various positions within the square while still providing variety. They are fun to dance. What more could you want?

Kids Dance

Every once in a while you need something that is cute and mindless to teach. The following dance is one example. It uses the gimmick of letting the dancers create their own dance. With some help from you of course.

This one works great with children of almost any age. It is very useful for parties where you are expected to entertain a wide variety of ages.

Scratch

unknown

Formation: Big Circle all facing center

Record: Columbia 4-442529 "Little Black Book" by Jimmy Dean

Description

- 1-4 One active person is chosen for the middle of the circle to start the dance. This person squats down to the floor and scratch the floor four times with one hand. Right or left. It doesn't matter
- 5-8 Scratch four times with the opposite hand.
- 9-16 Repeat scratching with alternating hands.
- 17-24 Scratch four times with both hands and stand up slowly on last four counts.
- 25-32 Point to someone in the outside circle.
- 33-64 The chosen person has to step into the middle of the circle and do some action. Waving a hand, hopping on one foot, etc. Once the action is recognized, everyone else in the circle must copy the action.

Note -- The timing in this dance can be very loose. It's pretty much up to the active person to pick when to stop the gyrations and drop to the floor and start to scratch.

Line Dance

Yona says she made the mistake of asking a tough fifth grader what he liked to dance. He said, "I don't like to dance." She said, "What do you like to do?" He said, "Kick Butt!" She said "Come back tomorrow and I'll teach you how to "Kick Butt."" The following dance resulted and the kids loved it.

Kamaile Kick

Yona Chock

Formation: Everyone in loose lines facing the same direction.

Record: Something with a beat the kids like.

Description

Beats of Music

1-4 Strut Four (walk with an "attitude" forward, right, left, right, left)

5-8 Right Basketball Turn (step forward on right foot and pivot on right foot to face to the rear and step on left foot.)

Right Basketball Turn (again step forward on right foot and pivot on right foot to face to the rear and step on left foot.)

Note -- You should be back facing the way you started with the right foot free

9-10 Kick Right, Ball Change (kick right, then quickly step on the ball of the right foot, and then step on left, in place.)

11-12 Kick Right, Ball Change (kick right, then quickly step on the ball of the right foot, and then step on left, in place.)

13-14 Kick Right, Ball Change (kick right, then quickly step on the ball of the right foot, and then step on left, in place.)

15-16 Stomp Right (while turning 1/4 to face left), **Stomp Left**

Yona added some comments about styling which fit the dance to the tongue in cheek mood she is trying to create. When they strut forward she says, "Hook your thumbs in your belt. Look Arrogant." The basketball turns are based on, "You got to watch your back. They could be sneaking up on you." The kick ball changes are obviously "kicking butt."

This is a very well designed role playing dance routine. While you wouldn't want to use this dance at a church camp, it works very well in the environment of a tough school. It got the kids up to dance. Once she had accomplished that the rest was easier.

Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar

April 12 & 13, 2003
Omni San Antonio
Hotel

San Antonio, TX
Cost \$25.00 per person

Learn to teach and lead
parties for people of all
ages who have never
danced before.

Easy
Square Dances
Contra Dances
Line Dances
Mixers & More

For More Information
Contact

Calvin Campbell
343 Turf Lane
Castle Rock, Co 80108
cal@eazy.net

Waltz Contra

Por Que No
by Len Cannell

Formation: Contra Lines. Couples 2,4,6, etc. crossed.

CD: Westfalia Waltz on CD Shepard's Wife's Waltz by Dulcimer Dan and the Blue Sky Band

Prompts

Intro - - - , - - - , - - - , - *Circle Left*

- 1-12 - - - , - - - , - - - , - **Circle Right,**
- 13-24 - - - , - - - , - - - , - **Partner DoSaDo**
- 25-36 - - - , - - - , **Lady on the right, two hand turn**
- 37-48 - - - , - - - , - - - , - **Circle Four**
- 49-60 - - - , - - - , - - - , - **Star Left**
- 61-72 - - - , - - - , - - - , **Half Promenade**
- 73-84 - - - , - - - , - - - , - **Pass Thru**
- 85-96 - - - , **Turn Alone,** - - - , - **Circle Left**

Description

- 1-12 Join hands at the ends of the long lines and Circle Left maintaining a long narrow circling pattern which appears like a chain saw when viewed from above. The waltz steps should be a running waltz with no close on the third step of each measure. Dancers should face the direction of travel.
- 13-24 Circle Right until each dancer can face their original partner in the opposite contra line. Dancers should face the direction of travel. The circle should end with facing contra lines.
- 25-36 DoSaDo Partner with men and ladies rotating counterclockwise around each other in four left turning solo 1/4 Turn Waltz steps. Finish in facing contra lines.
- 37-48 Each man faces the lady on his right and Two Hand Turn this lady once around in three waltz measures and then use the fourth waltz measure to place the lady back on his right hand side into facing contra lines.
- 49-60 Circle Four to the Left with the partner on the man's left and the person who participated in the two hand turn on the man's right
- 61-72 Same four Star Left until each dancer has returned to the original line.
- 73-84 The man should take the lady in front in a Skirt Skater's Promenade position and Half Promenade passing left shoulders with the opposite couple and continue to travel forward for two waltz measures turning to face the opposite line on the third and fourth waltz measures.
- 85-96 Pass Thru the opposite couple in two waltz measures. Acknowledge the current dancer and then turn away from the current partner to acknowledge and step in to facing lines with a new person and new foursome in two waltz measures. Your original partner should be facing you in the opposite line.