



A publication of

## The Committee for Community Dance of CALLERLAB

The International Association  
of  
Square Dance Callers

Volume 12 Number 3

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### Plans for Beginner Party Seminar

In April of 2004, the CCD and the NDA will host the fifth annual seminar for leaders of Beginner Dance Parties. We are looking for contacts in the Nevada and the Reno 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. 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.

### Video Plans for Seminar

For the past several years video tape has been taken of the Beginner Dance Party Leader's Seminar. The quality of these tapes has always been marginal due to the size of the room assigned for the seminar and the ambient lighting available. CALLERLAB is taking steps to resolve these problems for the 2004 convention.

The Executive committee has visited the convention site and the room selected for the Seminar is larger than we have had in the past. The room also has excellent lighting.

So, if you are planning on attending the Beginner Dance Party Leader's Seminar, you need to be aware that video cameras will be present and that your image may be used in a subsequent video produced by CALLERLAB. This may affect your choice of dress.

### Staff for Seminar

Plans are already under way for the Seminar topics. You can look forward to the following presentations that are planned at this time.

**Calvin Campbell** - Dances and music for beginner parties that use formations other than squares.

**Michelle Jacobs** - Beginner parties for the handi-capable.

**Jim Mayo** - Singing call dance routines for beginner parties.

**Yona Chock** - Dancing through history and the applications in schools.

**Bob Riggs** - Topic to be chosen

We still have three staff slots open. Do any of you have a topic you would like to see presented?

### Dancing For Busy People Published in a New Format

The familiar red, three ring, loose leaf format has been replaced. The new book is now bound in a perfect binding with an attractive four color cover. The binding process is a newer process called Otabind which allows the book to be laid open on a table.

The new edition has many format changes and a second appendix was added. The new appendix contains a complete lesson plan for teachers. The book is now printed on acid free paper.

The change was necessary to make the book acceptable to libraries and schools. It was also necessary because the new version will be carried in the book catalogue of the National Dance Association (NDA). It will also be stocked in their traveling store.

Other details, and a picture of the cover, can be found at:

[www.d4bp.com/](http://www.d4bp.com/)

### We Need Dance Material and Articles

This is the 12th year the CD Journal has been published. Your editor has pretty much gone through the dances he knows and files other people have sent. If you have a subject you would like to discuss or a dance you would be willing to share, please consider contributing.

Keep in mind that this publication is aimed at Beginner Parties and the Community Dance Program. We also welcome traditional dances.

## Dance Party Material

by Bob Riggs

To build a program that fits most of the venues you will encounter requires diversity in type, form, tempo and format. It is recognized that each leader has his/her own strengths and that we want to present our best to our audience. To address the needs of each dance venue we must continuously broaden our abilities to lead. We could do whole evenings of squares or line dances or contras and many parties require just that. But my experience shows that the use of a small set of terminology in many dance formations leads to a more fun evening with less need for teaching. To accomplish this I recommend building a portfolio of dances and material that includes big circle, square, contra, mixer, trio and line dance material that use the dancers natural language and a limited number of dance specific language terms.

### **Squares**

#### Terms / Language

Partner, Corner, Couple numbers (1-4), Left & Right, Separate, Circle Left/Right, Forward/Back, Arm Turns (L/F), DoSaDo, Star Right/Left, Promenade, Ladies Chain, ?

### **Singing Call Figures**

#### Soloman Levi like figure

**1st couple Separate around the outside of the square ... Turn Corner Left ... Turn Partner Right ... Corner Left ... DoSaDo ... Circle Left (home).**

Repeat for 2nd, 3rd & 4th couple, then 1st & 3rd couples at same time, then 2nd & 4th couples together and finally all 4 couples at the same time. Use a simple circle break to either start or end the singing call.

### Circle Figure

**1&3 forward & back ... Circle full around ... 2&4 Forward & Back ... Circle full around ... Everyone Forward & Back ... Circle Left Full around.**

*Note: NO partner change.*

### Ladies Chain Figure

**1&3 Ladies Chain ... 2&4 Ladies Chain ... All 4 Ladies Chain ... Turn Corner Left ... DoSaDo ... Take corner & Promenade**

*Note: Partner change or not - your choice.*

### Star Figure

**1&3 Promenade (or circle left ) ... Star Right one around to corner ... Swing Corner ... Promenade (home).**

*Note: Partner change.*

### **Music**

San Antonio Stroll  
Rocky Mountain Music  
Boot Scootin' Boogie  
Amarillo By Morning

### **Contra Dances**

NoName  
Virginia Reel or Virginia NoReel  
Tunnel Contra  
OXO

### **Mixers**

Patty Cake Polka  
10 O'clock Mixer  
Lancash Barn Dance  
Kiwi Ring  
Bay Boogie

### **Line Dances**

Cab Driver  
Electric Slide  
Rocky Mountain Scramble  
Amos Moses  
The Lion Sleeps Tonight

### **Trios**

TBC  
Phrase Craze

No matter what material you choose for each category find dances and music that suit your style and talents. It is important that your choices provide entertainment through variety and joy.

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## CCD Received Grant for Video Project

The Committee For Community Dancing has received a grant from the Foundation to assist in the video taping and editing of the Beginner Dance Leaders Seminars. The goal of the grant is to produce training tapes that may be sold by CALLERLAB.

### Trio Mixer

Clark Baker researched this dance for an e-mail discussion group. Cal adapted the description to fit the dance to the beginner party environment.

#### Scatter Threesome

Ted Sannella

**Formation:** Scattered lines of three, man in center with two ladies on each end of the line or a lady with two men on each end of the line.

#### Description.

- 1-16 Left-hand person in each line leads the line randomly around the hall to find another threesome and Circle Six to the left to reform the original lines of three at the end of the phrase.
- 17-24 Right Arm Turn the opposite person once and a half to reform each line of three on the opposite side.
- 24-32 Lines Forward & Back
- 33-40 Couples in each line Right & Left Thru left over only. (There will be a couple in each line with a man with a lady on his right. The opposite couple may be directly across or on the diagonal.)
- 41-48 New lines of three Forward & Back
- 49-54 Each line Circle Three.
- 55-64 Each Circle of Three breaks between the two people of the same gender so there are either men or ladies on each end of each line of three and start to wander as directed in 1-16.

*Note: I suspect this little gimmick would challenge even experienced square dancers. We will try it out during the 2004 Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar.*

*Note: The original dance has a Basket Swing instead of a Circle Three in 49-54. In a Basket Swing, each person reaches behind the back of the adjacent person on either side to grasp hands. This forms and interlocking basket that can be rotated rapidly.*

### Square Dance

We hear quite a bit of talk, these days, about Chicken Plucker patterns. I thought you might be interested in the original dance. Sets in Order, which became Square Dance Magazine, published two year books in the fifties. In "Year Book of Square and Round Dancing #2" , published in 1958, on page 12 there is a dance routine called The Chicken Plucker written by Bill Shyukus from Chicago, Ill. The dance routine was probably first published in Sets in Order Magazine prior to 1958.

**First and third Bow and Swing, go up to the middle and back again**

**Forward again and Pass Thru. Separate around one**

**Into the middle, Pass Thru and Circle Four, half way around and Dive Thru.**

**Pass Thru, and a Right and Left Thru, turn your girl and you Dive Thru**

**Pass Thru, and a Right and Left Thru, turn your girl as you always do**

**Dive to the middle and a Right and Left Thru**

**Turn your Pretty Girl and you Circle up Four**

**Half way around to the rhythm of the band**

**Pass Thru, Left Allemande.**

You can see what came to be known as the Chicken Plucker pattern in the theme that occurs with the Dive Thru, Pass Thru, Right and Left Thru the outside two. When it was done fast enough you really did feel like your tail feathers were being plucked. (Who has even plucked a chicken?)

This was where the idea of anchoring two couples essentially at their home positions and having two couples travel back and forth across a set originated. Watch most of the choreography that is done today. Most of the time, two couples are firmly anchored in their home positions. The other two couples travel back and forth across the set dancing first with one anchored couple and then the other.

I'm not saying this is good. In a way, it has become a deadly trap for many callers. It certainly makes it easier for a caller to resolve the set by sight, but it promotes very predictable choreography. When I am occasionally still asked to conduct callers clinics, I make a point to work on ways to purposely move the set around so the choreography doesn't always fall into the predictable Chicken Plucker pattern.

Calvin Campbell

# Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar

April 3 & 4, 2004

Hilton Hotel

Reno, NV

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

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343 Turf Lane

Castle Rock, Co 80108

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## Solo Dance

**Traffic Jam**

Author Unknown

**Formation:** People scattered around the floor facing any direction.

**Music:** Charlie's Polka works great.

### Cues

*Intro - - - -, - - Clap your hands*

**1-8 Stamp your feet, \_\_ Walk four, \_\_ Clap your hands**

**9-16 Stamp your feet, \_\_ Walk four, \_\_ Slide to the Right**

**17-24 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_ Slide to the left**

**25-32 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_ Clap your hands**

### Description

1-4 On the first two beats of music, after the intro, clap your hands quickly three times. During beats 3-4 stamp your feet quickly three times.

5-8 Walk four steps in any direction.

9-12 On the first two beats of music clap your hands quickly three times. During beats 3-4 stamp your feet quickly three times.

13-16 Walk four steps in any direction.

17-24 Slide to the right eight steps.

24-32 Slide to the left eight steps.

*Note: With young groups the slides can get a little wild. You might need to warn them that they need to be careful*