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**Committee for
Community and Traditional Dance**
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Square Dance Callers

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Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar

The sixth annual Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar will be held on Saturday and Sunday just prior to the start of the 2006 CALLERLAB Convention at the Renaissance Suites Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina. The seminar will start at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, April 8 and end at 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, April 9. Cost will be \$25 per leader. Spouses and/or partners will be admitted free. Checks should be made payable to CALLERLAB and sent to 467 Forrest Ave., Suite 118, Cocoa, Florida 32922.

At this time we have the following staff members scheduled to make presentations. Here is a brief synopsis of the topics to be presented. The order is yet to be determined.

Calvin Campbell will discuss his AAHPERD presentation designed for classroom teachers without dance experience. He will explain how he uses just five basics (Circle L/R, Forward and Back, Star R/L, Arm Turns and Pass Thru). Afterwards he will ask for suggestions about the selection of dances and for more ideas about what else could be done with these moves.

Yona Chock will present a short form of her presentation for the AAHPERD National Convention on Dancing Through Colonial American History.

Ron Counts & Kit Galvin will discuss details about their Community Dance Program in Colorado Springs, including publicity, choreography, and music.

Dave Fullaway will present several Traditional Square Dances.

Betsy Gotta will discuss school presentations of one class period to introduce square dancing to elementary or high school students. Her goal is to give the best possible impression of square dancing in a short time.

Jerry Helt will show some different ways to use Jiffy Mixer and other dances.

Chuck Jaworski will present some dances that can be used in elementary schools.

Bob Riggs will discuss using programming, planning and communication to ensure a successful event in spite of unexpected situations.

Stew Shacklette will show some contras with automatic crossovers that do not have to be prompted.

Otto Warteman will present several dances and also show some quick ways to transition between formations and dances.

Jim Wass will follow up on last year's presentation of the belief system with execution of that system through the lifecycle of a BDP event. This includes getting contacts, negotiations, dance presentation, facilitating their event, dealing with changes, closing the event, and follow up.

Discover and Share CCTD Dances During The 2006 CALLERLAB Convention

Sunday Afternoon Pre-Convention CCTD Community Dance (3-5 pm)

Plan to adjust from traveling mode to dancing mode by attending the usual Sunday Afternoon Community Dance. Please bring one or more dances to share and sign up with M.C. Bob Riggs when you arrive.

Monday Evening Contra and Traditional Dance

Contra Prompters and Traditional Dance enthusiasts are invited to bring one or more dances to present during this event. Community Dances are also acceptable. Please sign up with M. C. Calvin Campbell.

DVD Resource

BDPLS DVD Series Now Available

The first four DVDs of past seminar presentations are now available. All of these feature one of the leaders in the field making their presentation during the BDPLS held in Reno, Nevada in 2004. The DVDs may be purchased through the CALLERLAB home office for \$20 each or \$70 for all four in the series. (Look under Sale Items at www.callerlab.org)

Before the Dance by Bob Riggs in 2004

This DVD shows a discussion of 5 steps in how to prepare for a Beginner Dance Party.

- 1) How to prepare for the dance
- 2) Dances needed for a Beginner Dance Party
- 3) Telephone skit demonstrating initial contact and final agreement
- 4) Gathering more information about how to prepare
- 5) Comments and input from the audience

Dancing Outside the Box and Beginner Dance Mixers by Calvin Campbell in 2004

This DVD illustrates some of the many different types of dances which a caller can learn and use to add variety and fun to their ability to entertain dancers who attend Beginner Dance Parties. There are 2 parts.

- 1) Dancing Outside the Box includes No Name Contra, Tunnel Contra, Theil's Trio, TBC Trio, Sicilian Circle, Siege of Carrick, ONS Mescolanza, and Dumbarton Drums.
- 2) Beginner Dance Party Mixers includes I Don't Know Why, Light In The Window, C.J. Mixer and Kiwi Ring.

Father / Daughter Dance by Gerry Hardy in 2004.

This DVD shows how most active callers can use their skills to teach various dance formations and dances for a Father and Daughter Dance. Included are: 1) How to begin the dance, 2) Big Circle dancing to teach various calls, 3) Sicilian Circle dancing, 4) Squares transition, 5) Singing Calls, 6) Alabama Gal for all daughters, 7) More squares, 8) Solomon Levi Traditional Dance, and 9) Barnacle Bill with "Change Over".

Handicapable Dancing by Michelle Jacobs in 2004

This DVD discusses the skills and perceptions needed to call for Handicapable Dancers. There are six sections: 1) Introduction to the session, 2) Disability awareness with props to illustrate disabilities, 3) Sample calling, 4) More dancing, 5) Marketing and information sources, 6) Other dance forms that can be used.

Circle Dance

Swiss Break Variation

Idea from Stew Shacklette's "Easy Mixers 2003"
(Presented at the 2003 BDPLS in San Antonio, TX)

Usage Comment: This is a wonderfully simple way to get brand new dancers moving to the music very quickly. Adjust it to be a mixer or not as desired.

Formation: Circle of Couples facing counterclockwise. Normally the lady is on the gent's right side. If not used as a mixer than any pairing is fine.

Music: A march works well. An excellent modern selection is: "I'll Tell Me Ma", TJ 2000

Prompts:

Intro - - - -, - - Walk 8

1-8 - - - -, - - Back Away 4 & Clap

9-16 - - Forward to partner, - - Star Right

17-24 - - - -, - - Star Left

25-32 - - - -, - - Walk 8

Description:

- 1-8 Couples walk forward counterclockwise in the big circle 8 steps.
- 9-12 Dancers in each couple individually turn 1/4 to face each other. They back away 3 steps (the inside dancer backs towards the center of the circle), and clap their own hands on the 4th beat of music.
- 13-16 Dancers walk forward 4 steps back to their partner meeting with a 2-hand Right-Hand Star (elbows bent, right-hands up palm-to-palm).
- 17-24 Partners Star Right once around in 8 steps.

To keep partners together:

25-32 Dancers turn around and Star Left with their partner back around 8 steps adjusting at the end ready to walk forward again.

To use the dance as a mixer:

25-32 Dancers end the Right-Hand Star with the outside dancer facing in and the inside dancer facing out. They then make a 2-hand Left-Hand Star with the dancer on the other side of them. The original outside dancer moves clockwise while the inside dancer moves counterclockwise around the big circle. They turn the Left-Hand Star approximately once around adjusting at the end ready to walk forward again with this new partner.

Square Dance

The Versatile Star

Beginning dancers, especially youth dancers or adults in a group of strangers, are often more comfortable with the finger tip contact of Stars than they are with the hand hold of Circles or the forearm hold of Allemande Left. Have you considered how versatile the Star action can be? Corners Star Left can be used for Allemande Left. Star Half (right or left) and face in can replace Right & Left Thru.

Explain to the dancers that they should focus on another dancer in their star to avoid becoming dizzy.

Jennie's Stars

(Choreographer unknown, perhaps you can tell us.)

Presented at 2000 CALLERLAB in Las Vegas, NV

Usage Comment: This could be repeated 4 times as a stand alone quadrille, or used as a singing call figure. There is no partner change in this routine.

Formation: Square

Music: Something smooth with clear 8-beat phrasing.

Prompts:

Intro - - - -, -- Gents Star Left

1-8 Ladies Loop - -, - Partners Star Right

9-16 - - - -, -- Ladies Star Left

17-24 Gents Loop - -, - Partners Star Right

25-32 - - - -, - Corners Star Left

33-40 - - - -, - Partners Star Right

41-48 - - - -, -- Roll Promenade

49-56 - - - -, - - - -

57-64 - - - -, -- Gents Star Left

Description:

1-8 The 4 gents make a Left-Hand Star and turn it once around in the center, while the ladies walk around in a small individual circle to their left.

9-16 Partners make a 2-hand Right-Hand Star and turn it once and a half around to put the ladies into the center of the square.

17-24 The 4 ladies make a Left-Hand Star and turn it once around in the center, while the gents walk around in a small individual circle to their left.

25-32 Partners Star Right once around and a bit more to their corner.

33-40 Corners make a 2-hand Left-Hand Star and turn it until the dancers are back facing their partner.

41-48 Partner Star Right full around until the gents are on the inside facing Promenade direction. The ladies do a tight right-face turn to stand beside their partner ready to Promenade.

49-64 Partners Promenade once around the square.

Sicilian Circle

Best Friend Sicilian

Source: The star idea used in the first 32 beats came from an English Country Contra usually danced to waltz music called "A Girl's Best Friend".

Usage comment: Sicilian Circles are often used as a second formation following a big circle start at Beginner Parties. Please see discussion on the next page.

Formation: Couples facing couples like spokes of a wheel. One couple is facing clockwise, the other couple is facing counterclockwise around the big circle.

Music: Something with clear 8-beat phrasing, a good clap section, and not too fast.

Prompts:

Intro - - - -, - Each 4 Star Right

1-8 - - - -, -- Partners Star Right

9-16 - Then turn away, -- Each 4 Star Left

17-24 - - - -, -- Partners Star Left

25-32 - Then turn away, -- Partner Claps

33-40 - - - -, -- Opposite Claps

41-48 - - - -, -- Opposites Star Left

49-56 - - - -, Once and a bit and on to next

57-64 - - - -, - Each 4 Star Right

Description:

1-8 Each facing group of 4 dancers make a 4-hand Right-Hand Star and turn it once around.

9-16 Readjust the star handhold to be just partner pairs and 2-hand Star Right once around (flirt a bit if appropriate) in 4 beats. Then partners turn away from each other and walk 4 steps around in a small left-face circle.

17-24 The same group of 4 dancers make a 4-hand Left-Hand Star and turn it once around.

25-32 Readjust the star handhold to be just partner pairs and 2-hand Star Left once around in 4 beats. Then partners turn away from each other and walk 4 steps around in a small right-face circle to end facing each other.

33-40 Slap knees twice, clap own hands twice, clap partner's hands 3 times, on the 8th beat each dancer turns to face their opposite dancer. (Couples are now in their starting position.)

41-48 Repeat the clap sequence with the opposite dancer. On the 8th beat make a 2-hand Left-Hand Star with the same dancer.

49-56 Star Left once around then continue the same motion passing left shoulders and letting go.

57-64 Partners move on to meet a new couple and Bow to them ready to begin again.

Sicilian Circles

Sicilian Circles are a nice transition stage between big circle partner dances and squares. Complexity increases as dancers are directed to interact in groups of 2, then 4, and then 8.

Leaders will find Sicilian Circles to be a very useful teaching formation for large dance groups. This formation works best when there are at least 40 dancers, but not so many that the circle is crowded.

Begin with a big circle of partner pairs, then groups of 4 dancers turn to face each other to make couples facing couples like spokes of a wheel. Each couple will progress forward in their original facing direction. Thus those who are facing counterclockwise at the start will dance in turn with the couples facing clockwise and vice versa.

If there are not enough dancers to make a Sicilian Circle then usually the same choreography can be used by making a long line of pairs of facing couples back-to-back with the next set of facing couples. When a couple reaches the end they trade with each other to face back in, wait out one sequence, then rejoin the dance when the next sequence begins. An odd number of couples can be accommodated in this way with one inactive couple at a time.

Contact Us

Our goal is to publish three issues of the Community Dance Journal each year. Please send suggestions and articles to:

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Contra

Good Girl (Traditional)

Usage Comment: This contra was suggested by Betsy Gotta during the 2005 BDPLS for use with Seniors. The active lady lead out to a line is an unusual idea and dances very smoothly.

Formation: Contra Lines. Couples 1, 3, 5 etc. active and crossed over.

Prompts:

Intro - - - -, Face corner, Balance & Swing

1-8 - - - -, Groups of 4 Circle Left

9-16 - - - -, -- Circle Right

17-24 Active lady lead out to a line, Down the center 4 in line

25-32 - - - -, Wheel Around, Come Back

33-40 - - - -, Bend the Line, Ladies Chain

41-48 - - - -, -- Chain Back

49-56 - - - -, -- Forward and Back - -

57-64 - - - -, Face corner, Balance & Swing

Cross at the ends when neutral

Description:

1-8 All dancers face their corner (Gents look to left, Ladies look to right) Balance (forward, touch, back, touch in 4 beats) & Swing (4 beats). End the Swing facing in with the lady on the right.

9-16 Each group of 4 Circle Left 8 beats.

17-24 Same 4 Circle Right 8 beats, active lady release right hand hold and pull the circle out into a line facing away from the prompter.

25-32 Line of 4 walk down the hall away from the prompter for 6 steps.

33-40 Each pair Wheel Around by turning half around as a couple counter-clockwise (men backup, ladies walk forward). The line of 4 reform and walk 6 steps up the hall towards the prompter.

41-48 The two couples in each line turn to face each other adjusting smoothly into a Ladies Chain.

49-56 Same 2 Ladies Chain back.

57-64 Long lines walk forward 3 steps & touch, backup 3 steps & touch.

Second and following sequences:

When a couple reaches the end and does not have a corner for the Balance and Swing, they exchange places ready to reenter the action after one sequence. The active ladies continue to be active each time until they reach the foot of the set. Active couples become inactive when they reach the bottom. In this dance they may enjoy a long Swing with each other before leading the lines of 4 down the hall and using the Wheel Around to accomplish their exchange. Inactive couples become active when they reach the top.

Note: The Wheel Around may be replaced with a California Twirl (partners raise joined hands, turn to face each other, pass right shoulders with the lady ducking under the joined hands, and continue turning to end side-by-side facing the opposite direction).