



A publication of the
**Committee for
Community and Traditional Dance**
of
CALLERLAB
The International Association
of
Square Dance Callers

Volume 17 Number 1

November 2008

CCTD in Kansas City

The Committee for Community and Traditional Dance (CCTD) will have a busy schedule associated with the upcoming 2009 CALLERLAB Convention.

BDPLS 2009

The **10th Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar (BDPLS)** will be held on the Saturday and Sunday prior to the start of the convention. Informative sessions are planned on community dances, one-night parties, dance material, music, and leadership of dance parties.

Your topic could be added as a session at the seminar if you contact us by December 1st.

If you are actively involved in Beginner Parties, thinking about becoming involved, or want a few ideas for use on Open House nights for a square dance club, these annual seminars provide a wealth of material. Each year some basic leadership skills are discussed for those learning to call successful Beginner Dance Parties. The presenters make an effort to bring new and different dances so that all attendees find something new to add to their repertoire. Join us for an excellent beginning to a productive CALLERLAB Convention experience.

Again this year the CCTD has been asked to host the Sunday afternoon **Community/Contra Dance** for all the incoming callers and partners. We encourage each of you to bring a dance and music that fits this theme. This is your chance to show these dances to your peers. The session will be recorded on audio tape. Please contact the MC, Bob Riggs.

Help Needed

The Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar needs volunteers to handle sound and cameras. No experience is necessary. Would you volunteer to handle all of the sound for the seminar to ensure consistency and quality? Would you volunteer to run a video camera to ensure we have adequate angles and video options? If you are coming to the seminar and would be willing to help, contact Bob at Bob@sde-co.com, 303-808-7837.

If any of you are bringing sound equipment and would be willing to let it be used for the BDPLS we would appreciate the use of it. We need a mini-disk player, and a variable speed CD player. We also need wireless microphones. Once again, contact Bob if you can help.

Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar

**April 4 & 5, 2009
Hilton Hotel
Kansas City Airport
Missouri**

**Learn to lead
community, dance party
and educational events
for people of all ages
who have never danced
before.**

**Gather Material
Square Dances
Contra Dances
Line Dances
Mixers & More**

**For More Information
or to Offer Help
Contact:**

**Bob Riggs
7683 E. Costilla Blvd.
Centennial, Colorado
80112**

**Bob@sde-co.com
303-808-7837**

Editorial

Events conspired against us in the production of a February 2008 issue of the CD Journal. During the CCTD meeting in Los Angeles it became obvious that more research needed to be done on the dances presented here. We hope that we now have the correct names, choreographers, and descriptions.

Since this is the first issue of 2008, it is unlikely that we will manage to achieve our goal of three issues this year, but do plan one more before Christmas. Hopefully, we will be back on track next year.

“Dancing with the Stars” seems to have increased the interest in dancing. Offering enticing Beginner Party events is one way to change casual interest into active participation. Beginner Parties are an obvious way to raise awareness about the world of Square and Round dancing.

If you have questions about a dance or type of dance, a suggestion about a theme for an issue, or any other feedback about the CD Journal, please contact us at the address below. Please let us know how we can help you make your parties more enticing to new dancers.

Share Your Ideas

Do you have questions
or a favorite
Beginner, Community,
Traditional or Contra dance?

Please send, suggestions
and articles to:
Dottie Welch
dwelch@ap.stmarys.ca
415 Conrad Road, Lawrencetown,
Nova Scotia, Canada, B2Z 1S3

Our goal is to publish
three issues of the
Community Dance Journal
each year.

Theme

Poussettes and Wheelbarrows

Poussette:

Poussette is a term used by both English and Scottish Country Dancers. It comes from the French word *pousse* meaning "a push".

In its original form this action would begin in proper contra lines with all the gents in the right line facing their partners in the left line. The long line is separated into groups of four beginning at the top of the line (near the prompter). The couple nearest the top in each group of 4 is couple #1, the other couple is #2.

In contra dancing, Couple #1 is also referred to as the Active Couple. It is believed that the “push” description originally applied to the active Gent, so the action began with Gent #1 pushing his partner and the dancers moving clockwise. As choreography evolved, the Poussette term was applied to both clockwise and counterclockwise applications of the concept. Therefore, it is necessary to carefully read the choreographer’s description of the dance to determine which dancers should “push” at the beginning of the action.

To begin a Poussette each partner pair joins hands, chest high and with elbows bent. Each dancer should maintain some muscular resistance in the arms. Working within the group of four one gent pushes forward while the other gent pulls backward (his partner pushes forward). Four steps should move the couples out far enough so that those pushing can slide past each other back-to-back. Then the gents reverse rolls to pull or push their partner back into the contra lines. When the two couples have exchanged places a **Half Poussette** has been completed. Continue the same pull or push motion until the couples can again slide past each other back-to-back. The gents again reverse rolls to move their partners back into the original position. This completes a **Full Poussette**.

To smooth out the action think of the motion as moving along the edges of a diamond. In the clockwise application, Gent #1 pushes forward and slightly to his right (pushers are back-to-back), then he pulls back and slightly to his right to the half way point (couples have changed places). Then he pulls back and slightly to his left (new pushers are back-to-back) and finishes by pushing forward and slightly to his left (couples are back in their original position).

There are fancy versions that involve turning but in this basic version, each dancer will face only one wall during the entire action.

Wheelbarrows:

When the action described above is clockwise it is sometimes called a **Wheelbarrow Dosado**.

A series of Half Poussettes can be used to move a couple from the top to the bottom of a short contra line. This is also known as a **Wheelbarrow Reel**.

The following dances all use these ideas in various ways. Perhaps you will be inspired to find other interesting uses. Let us know if you come up with a new and successful dance.

Proper Contra for 4 Couples

Wheelbarrow Reel

By Don Armstrong

Usage: This is a nice variation on the Virginia Reel concept.

Formation: Four couples in contra lines, all the men in a line on the caller's right, all the ladies in a line on the caller's left.

Music: "Red Wing", Lloyd Shaw E-42, Side B, Track 1, instrumental (Track 2, prompted by Don Armstrong)

Prompts:

Intro - - - -, All Forward and Back

1-8 - - - -, Turn Partner Right-Hand round

9-16 - - - -, Turn Partner Left-Hand round

17-24 - - - -, Turn Partner Two-Hands round

25-32 - - - -, Top Couple Wheelbarrow - push

33-40 - - - Reverse, - - - continue

41-48 - - - Reverse, - - - continue

49-56 - - - Reverse, - - - Dosado

57-64 - - - -, Long Lines Forward and Back

Description:

- 1- 8 All dance forward towards partner four steps and back up into starting lines four steps.
- 9-16 With right pigeon-wing handhold (elbows bent, hands up), all turn partner once around and return to starting lines.
- 17-24 With left pigeon-wing handhold, all turn partner once around.
- 25-32 All join both hands with partner, chest high, elbows bent, right side to right side and walk around each other clockwise. Release hands and back up into starting lines.
- 33-40 All rejoin both hands with partner, chest high, elbows bent, each offering some support to the other by maintaining some muscular resistance in the arms. Then the top man "pushes" his partner as he moves forward 4 steps, while all other men "pull" their partners as they move backward 4 steps. The top couple moves sideways around the second couple and then all couples reverse their direction. The top man "pulls" his partner as he moves backward 4 steps, as all the other men "push" their partner as they move forward 4 steps. Couple #1 is now between couple #2 and couple #3.
- 41-48 The top man continues to "pull" his partner as he moves backward 4 steps, as all the other men continue to "push" their partner as they move forward 4 steps. The top couple moves sideways around the third couple and then all couples reverse their direction. The top man "pushes" his partner into the space between couple #3 and couple #4 while the other men "pull" their partners back into line.
- 49-56 Repeat the action of 33-40 with Couple #1 moving around couple #4 to end at the foot of the set.
- 57-64 All Dosado their partner (pass right shoulders, slide back-to-back, and back up passing left shoulders) to end in proper contra lines ready to begin again with a new top couple.

Squares

Wheelbarrow Dosado

A Wheelbarrow Dosado equals a Full Poussette as described on page two. All Dancers return to their starting position.

Head Gents Push opposite lady to begin a Wheelbarrow Dosado (Gents Push, Ladies Push, Gents Push) . . .

Side Ladies Push opposite gent for Counterclockwise Wheelbarrow Dosado . .

Heads Pass Thru and Separate Around Two to a Line . . . Forward and Back . . . Join both hands with opposite, Ladies push for a Wheelbarrow Dosado . . .

In the center 4, Ladies push for a CCW Wheelbarrow Dosado . . . All 8 Circle Left . . . Allemande Left, Promenade . . .

Half Poussette

After a Half Poussette the two interacting pairs have exchange places as described on page two.

Head Gents push opposite lady for a Half Poussette . . . Side Gents push opposite lady for a Half Poussette . . . Head Ladies push opposite Gent for a Half Poussette . . . Side Ladies push opposite Gent for a Half Poussette . . .

Heads Pass Thru and Separate Around One to a Line . . . Forward and Back . . . Join both hands with opposite and in each 4, End Gents and Center Ladies Push for a Half Poussette . . .

In the center 4, the Ladies Push for a (CCW) Half Poussette . . . All Forward & Back, Pass Thru, Allemande Left, Promenade . . .

Circle Mixer

High Mountain Mixer

By Don Armstrong

Usage: This works best when there are at least 8 couples. There are lots of turns for the ladies. Consider using the variation described at the end.

Formation: Single circle of couples all facing the center of the hall, lady on their partner's right.

Music: "Lighted Sconce" on Lloyd Shaw with Hammered Dulcimer, or "Fraulein" on Global Music 938

Prompts:

Intro - - - -, -- Circle Left

1-8 - - - -, Lasso Girl around her partner

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

17-24 - - - -, Lasso Girl around partner

25-32 -- And a bit more, -- Push into centre 4

33-40 -- Back out 4, -- Dosado

41-48 -- Move to left, -- Push in 4

49-56 -- Back out 4, - same 2 Circle Left

57-64 - Put lady on the right, - All Circle Left

Description:

1-8 All join hands and Circle Left for 8 steps.

9-16 Partners maintain their hand hold while the Gents raise their right hand and guide their partner in a counterclockwise circle around the gent. Ladies will pass in front of their partner and then around behind him to end back where they began.

17-24 All Circle Right for 8 steps.

25-32 Lasso Girl around partner again as in 9-16 and ladies continue a bit more to end with the lady in front of gent with her back to center.

33-40 Partners join both hands, gents push the lady into the center 4 steps, then back out 4 steps.

41-48 Partners Dosado and then slide sideways to their left to face a new partner.

49-56 New partners join both hands, gents push the lady into the center 4 steps, then back out 4.

57-64 Same two Circle Left once around then release gent's left and lady's right handhold to allow lady to continue turning into the big circle on the gent's right side. (See variation.)

Easier Variation for 57-64: Some groups may find the final two-dancer Circle Left too disorienting. If so, try replacing it with "Ladies turn left to face in". Do this by maintaining the Gent's right and Lady's left hand hold so he can guide her under his right arm and into position beside him in the big circle. The lady will turn to her left half around to face in.

Contra

Baker's Wife

By Stew Shacklette

Usage: If the "groups of 4" idea is new to the dancers then the progression concept must be explained. See the discussion at the end of the Description.

Formation: Proper contra lines with all the gents in the right line facing their partners in the left line. Designate groups of 4 from the top. Within the 4 the couple nearest the top is #1, the other is #2.

Music: Any well-phrased Jig

Note: In contrast to the previous dances, this Half Poussette is intended to continue the Circle Right action which means Gent 1 and Lady 2 first pull and then push making the motion counterclockwise.

Prompts:

Intro - - - -, Gent 1 & Lady 2 Forward & Back

1-8 - - - -, Same dancers Dosado

9-16 - - - -, Gent 2 & Lady 1 Forward & Back

17-24 - - - -, Same dancers Dosado

25-32 - - - -, Long Lines Forward and Back

33-40 - - - -, All with Partner Dosado

41-48 - - - -, Each four Circle Right

49-56 - - - -, Join both hands Half Poussette

57-64 - - - -, Gent 1 & Lady 2 Forward & Back

Description:

1-8 Gent #1 and Lady #2 move 3 steps towards each other and touch on beat 4 then backup 3 steps to place and touch on beat 8.

9-16 Gent #1 and Lady #2 Dosado.

17-24 Gent #2 and Lady #1 Forward and Back.

25-32 Gent #2 and Lady #1 Dosado.

33-40 All Forward 3 steps & touch, Back 3 & touch.

41-48 All dancers with their Partner Dosado.

49-56 The same 4 dancers Circle Right once around

57-64 Dancers join both hands with their partners for a Half Poussette. Continuing the Circle Right motion, Gent #1 and Lady #2 pull their partner forward and slightly to their right until their partners are back-to-back then push their partners back into line so that the couples exchange places.

The #1 dancers have progressed down one position. They look below (away from the prompter) for a new #2 couple to begin the dance again. Couples at the end of the lines without a second available couple are Neutral. Neutral couples wait one full 64 beat sequence, change number (#1s become #2s and vice versa), and then rejoin the action.