

Community

Dance

Journal



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

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Notes from the Committee for Community and Traditional Dance

CCTD Vice Chairman Change Calvin Campbell Retires Mike Preskitt Appointed

Calvin Campbell, from Castle Rock, Colorado, has served on the CALLERLAB Community Dance Program Committee as Vice Chairman, Chairman, and then again as Vice Chairman since 1993. During that time he was editor of this Journal for its first 12 years, he started the Beginner Dance Party Leader Seminars in 2000, organized it for 8 more years, and he managed all of the video taping. In addition, he has actively promoted Community and Traditional Dance in many ways within and outside of CALLERLAB. We thank Calvin and Judy for their long and dedicated service and hope that we can maintain the high standard they have set.

We welcome our new Vice Chairman, Mike Preskitt, from Anchorage, Alaska. Mike and Debbie have been faithful attendees at the Community Dance Leader Seminars. Mike has been calling since 1968 and moved to Alaska the next year where he has been calling for various clubs, teaching new dancers, cueing rounds, and conducting party dances for all occasions. We look forward to their fresh point of view to inspire us and help us move forward into the future.

Flexibility is the Key

A key ingredient in planning and calling beginner parties and community dance events is to build in flexibility. Be ready to adjust as needed. Collect a wide variety of dances. Try to be prepared for everything from one dancer to a large crowd that packs the hall. Plan what to do if very few dancers are there at the start, and also consider how to organize a floor full of a rowdy crowd.

Have ideas for solo lines or circles, couples, triplets, squares, five, seven or nine dancers, circles of couples including mixers or non-mixers, Sicilian circles, trios and facing trios, contra lines of various kinds and Mescolanzas. Consider snakes, a grand march, or couples random promenading. Think about which of these makes the most efficient use of the space available and which will allow odd numbers of dancers or couples to participate.

Most dance sequences have suggested music, but that can usually be changed. Pay attention to the number of counts in the dance sequence and think about how many times you want to repeat the sequence. Experiment with possible music by dancing the sequence yourself. Listen for clear groups of 8 counts to help you pre-cue properly. Select musical genres appropriate for the dancers or event.

Community Dance Leader Seminar 2019

April 13 and 14, 2019 at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, Virginia

Gather material and enhance your ability to successfully lead party, community, or limited Basic square dances.

Nine Dancer Box

The Prime Minister

By John Colville

Formation: Three rows all facing up (towards the caller). The person in the middle is the Prime Minister (PM). He is often given a symbolic hat, which is passed on to the next PM. Rows run left and right across the box, columns run up and down.

Music: 128-count reels or jigs or 64-count music that has an even number of repeats.

Usage: This is as much fun to teach as it is to dance. The Stars and the Heys are a bit tricky. It is best used with dancers who have some previous experience with those calls.

Source: Thanks to Mike Preskitt for presenting this at the CDLS in Albuquerque. See <https://www.barndances.org.uk/>

Prompts:

- A1 (16 counts) Keep in with your right wing:** center and right columns promenade to left;
- A2 (16 counts) Keep in with your left wing:** center and left columns promenade to right;
- B1 (16 counts) Moderates run rings round the Prime Minister:** ends of PM's row and column circle left and right;
- B2 (16 counts) Extremists run rings round the Prime Minister:** four corners circle left and right around the PM;
- C1 and C2 (32 counts) Prime Minister exerts authority:** Star right to NE, left to NW, right to SW, then left to SW;
- D1 (16 counts) Descend into usual Parliamentary chaos:** Left end dancer of each row begins a Hey for 3;
- D2 (16 counts) Change the government:** Front row go back behind middle row and then behind the back row.

Description:

- A1 Center column with their right-hand partner, Promenade around the left-hand column.
- A2 Center column with their left-hand partner, Promenade around the right-hand column.
- B1 The four end dancers in the PM's row and column Circle Left and then Circle Right around the PM.
- B2 The four corner dancers Circle Left and Right around the PM (or quickly "Single File Promenade").
- C PM makes a Right-Hand Star with the three dancers in the front right (NE) corner, then PM stars left with front left, right with rear left, and left with rear right.
- D1 Left end dancer of each row begins a Hey for 3.
- D2 Front right person leads the front row behind the middle row (which steps forward to become the new front row) and around behind the back row (which becomes the new middle row). Someone in the front row picks the hat off the PM's head and puts it on the new PM.

Solo Circle Dance

Alunelul

Traditional Romanian

Formation: Circle of single dancers (no partners).

Music: "Alunelul" or other piece with a clear 8 x 8 count verse. Try a "marchy" jig.

Usage: This kind of simple dance is recommended as a way to get new dancers on the floor .

Prompts:

- 1-8 To right five steps and two stamps;**
- 9-16 To left repeat 1-8;**
- 17-24 To right repeat 1-8;**
- 25-32 To left repeat 1-8;**
- 33-40 To right three and stamp; and to left;**
- 41-48 Repeat;**
- 49-56 Step, Points (5 beats) and two stamps;**
- 57-64 Same to left.**

Description:

- 1-8 To the right: Side, In Front, Side, In Front, Side, Stamp, Stamp (make noise with left foot but do not take weight).
- 9-16 To the left repeat 1-8.
- 17-32 Repeat 1-16.
- 33-40 To the right: Side, In-Front, Side, Stamp; Repeat to the left.
- 41-48 Repeat counts 33-40.
- 49-56 To right: Step to the right, Point left foot across in front, Step to the left, Point right foot across; Step to the right, Stamp twice with left.
- 57-64 To left repeat 49-56.

Reference Notes

CALLERLAB Dance Resource

<http://dances.callerlab.org/>

This resource contains dances for use at limited Basic events. More dances are being added.

Square Dances (quadrilles, traditional, singing figures)
Contra Dances (various types)
Circle Dances (solo, partners, trios, mixers)
Other appropriate dances

Many of these dances have also been published in the *CD Journal*, *Dancing for Busy People*, or *CDP Handbook*.

Past CD Journals

www.callerlab.org

From the Home Page, Select "For Callers", then "General Documents". Widen your window or scroll down to see the Index. Double click Title or Category to alphabetize. Scroll down to the *CD Journal* listings.

They can also be accessed via the Dance Resource (see above) using the *CD Journal Links* which is a sortable index.

Share Your Ideas

Send dance or theme ideas to
Dottie Welch
415 Conrad Road,
Lawrencetown, NS,
Canada, B2Z 1S3

dwelch@eastlink.ca

Our goal is to publish two or three issues of the *CD Journal* each year.

Traditional Square

Little Log Cabin English Traditional Square

Formation: Eight dancers arranged in a square.

Music: "Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane" or other 64-count music of your choice.

Usage: This is a simple dance with a creative change in the usual Promenade action.

YouTube: The version described below can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0IL9CXm4tM>

Prompts

Intro or

57-64 - - - -; Couples 2 and 1 Promenade outside;

1-8 - - - -; -- (continue Promenading back to home);

9-16 - - - -; Couple 2 and Couple 1 Star Right;

17-24 - - - -; -- Same group of four Star Left;

25-32 - - - -; -- All Eight Circle Right;

33-40 - - - -; -- Circle Left back to home;

41-48 - - - -; -- All go Forward and Back;

49-56 - - - -; -- Partner Swing.

Repeat for Couples 3 and 2.

Repeat for Couples 4 and 3.

Repeat for Couples 1 and 4.

Repeat for Couples 1 and 3 (do the Stars in the middle).

Repeat for Couples 2 and 4 (do the Stars in the middle).

Repeat for all four couples at once (8-hand Star in middle).

Little Log Cabin Variation:

A variation of this dance has the stars always involving all eight dancers. This is described on the same *A Barn Dance Repertoire* by Thomas Green site mentioned in *The Prime Minister* on page 2. See <https://www.barndances.org.uk/>

Description of the Thomas Green Variation:

1-16 Couple 2 and Couple 1 Promenade round the set (anticlockwise) and back to place with the 2s leading;

17-32 With the nearest stationary pair (2s with 3s, 1s with 4s), Star Right; and then Star Left;

33-48 All Circle Left; and then Circle Right;

49-56 Keep hold: go four steps into the middle and back;

57-64 Swing Partner.

Repeat with 3s and 2s; then 4s and 3s; and then 1s and 4s.

Repeat with 1s and 3s making the Star ahead (1s with 2s).

Repeat with 2s and 4s making the Star ahead.

Repeat for all and make an 8-hand Star in the middle.

Kentucky Running Set

This variation on the traditional square dance done in a set of four couples, comes from the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. The Big Set evolved over time to allow any number of couples to enter the set. The term "Running Set" may have come from "to run a set" which meant to dance the same figure through for each couple in turn. These dances are done in a brisk smooth walk to fast music. Appalachian communities tend to dance at about 130 beats per minute. Traditionally the "Swings" are two-hand turns in the traditional English Country dance manner.

The Running Set is made up of a series of figures for two couples, along with various chorus type figures. The two couple figures are danced from concentric circles with couples in the inside circle facing out towards couples in the outside circle who are facing in.

For a group of dancers new to this concept, it is easiest to set up the concentric circles at the start. If there is a surplus couple, they can take a spot in the outside circle and dance the first time with phantoms. The progression will move the phantoms on to another couple. The figures usually end with "circle left and on to the next" upon which the couples move to their left in their own big circle to face a new couple.

An alternative approach that works well for five, six or seven couples is to have couple 1 fold in to face couple 2 and dance the figure then move on to couple 3. When couple 1 gets to couple 4, couple 2 folds in to dance with couple 3. After two more repetitions couple 3 folds in and so forth. When the dancers in couple 1 complete dancing with all the couples, they move out into the outside circle and continue dancing with the couples coming behind.

These dances often end with a big circle. The calls might be: Circle Left, Circle Right, Ladies Forward and Back, Gents Forward and make a Right-Hand Star, Gents Star Left, with your partner Star Promenade, back out to a big circle, Forward and Back and Bow.

Running Set Figures

This is a small sampling of the possibilities:

Georgia Rang Tang

- Turn corner by the right arm, partner left, corner right, partner left.
- Bob Dalsemer used this in combination with "You swing mine, I'll swing yours; back to partners and swing" (swing = two-hand turn).
- Circle four, break that ring and on you go.

Lady Round the Lady, Gent Round Gent

- First lady goes between twos crossing over to go around the lady, gent follows her between the twos crossing over to go around the gent). (This puts the first couple back where they started but half-sashayed.)
- First couple turn by the right once around.
- First lady goes between twos crossing over to go around the gent, gent follows her between the twos crossing over to go around the lady.
- First couple turn by the left once around.
- Circle four, break that ring and on you go.

Lady 'Round the Lady, Gent Also; Lady 'Round the Gent, Gent Solo

- The first lady, followed by the first gent, leads between the second couple and to the left round the second lady.
- The first lady, this time alone, leads between the second couple and goes to the right around the second gent who solo turns to watch her, while first gent does a solo dance in place.
- Circle four, break that ring and on you go.

Mountaineer Loop

- The two couples circle left once around.
- The second couple raise their inside hands to make an arch. The first couple go under the arch, drop their adjacent hands, the first gent goes to his left round the second lady while the first lady goes to her right round the second gent. The second gent turns clockwise under his right arm while the second lady turns counter-clockwise under her left arm.
- Circle Left.
- The first couple arch and the second couple make the loop.
- Circle four, break that ring and on you go.