



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

The Committee for Community and Traditional Dance (CCTD) continues to provide support to dance leaders desiring to conduct community dances and/or one-night parties.

This *Community Dance Journal* has been published since 1992. If you are not a subscriber, contact the CALLERLAB Home Office and request to be added to the subscriber list. Past issues of the CD Journal (formerly the CDP Journal) are available in the Document section of the CALLERLAB website. Members of CALLERLAB can download a regularly updated .pdf version of the *CD Journal* index. The Dance Resource also has a sort-able index for the Journals with links to each issue. Please see page 3 if you have a topic suggestion or a contribution.

The **Community Dance Leader Seminar** (CDLS) (formerly BDPLS) has been held annually since 2000. Plan to join us April 4th and 5th, 2020 in Sparks, NV (Reno) for this educational session at the CALLERLAB Convention hotel. These seminars include sessions on programming, choreography, teaching and music, as well as opportunities for those attending to hone their presentation skills on the microphone. Contact the Home Office to register for this event.

### Dance Resource Website

The Dance Resource Website was created to preserve and make available the information accumulated in the CD Journals, during the seminars, and from other sources. This website is: <http://dances.callerlab.org>.

This sub-site of the CALLERLAB website has been set up to provide anyone with access to dance material that is appropriate for use at party and community dances. One way to provide interesting entertainment with a small number of calls is to use several forms of dances. This variety also provides numerical and gender flexibility. About 200 posts are now available in html with downloadable prompts and descriptions. In addition, there are articles about the subjects discussed during the Community Dance Leader Seminars.

The square dances include simple modern singers, quadrilles, traditional squares, and visiting couple dances. The contras include proper lines, duples, triplets, Sicilian circles, trios, and Mescolanzas. There are also line and circle dances for solos, and circle dances for couples including partner mixers. This collection continues to grow as we research archives and obtain new ideas from the worldwide activities of community dancers.

## Community Dance Leader Seminar 2020

**April 4 and 5, 2020**

**at the Nugget Casino and Resort in Sparks, Nevada (Reno)**

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

## Whole Set Contra

### Riverside Jig From Scottish Cèilidh Dancing

**Formation:** Proper contra lines with partners facing and teams of four. Traditionally, the gents are in the line on the prompter's right; however, this dance has no specific reference to gender. From lines with partners facing, direct the dancers to join hands in groups of four starting from the top. Note that this dance has each group of four all progressing at once. Thus families will stay together and a fifth dancer is okay.

**Music:** Any strongly-phrased 64-count jig.

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

**57-64** - - - -; **Forward and Back with a hop and "hey";**

**1-8** - - - -; **Forward and Back again;**

**9-16** - - - -; - **Partner Dosado;**

**17-24** - - - -; - **Neighbor Dosado;**

**25-32** - - - -; - **Right-Hand Star;**

**33-40** - - - -; - **Left-Hand Star;**

**41-48** **Top two couples make double arch down to the foot;**

**49-56** - - - -; **Others move up;**

#### Description:

1-8 Long lines walk forward three steps, then hop and say "hey", then back up three steps and hop saying "ho".

9-16 Repeat counts 1-8.

17-24 Dancers Dosado with their partner across.

25-32 Dancers Dosado with the dancer beside them in their group of four.

33-40 Each group of four make a Right-Hand Star and turn it for six counts then turn alone on counts 7 and 8.

41-48 Same group of four make a Left-Hand Star and turn it for eight counts back to place.

49-56 The top four dancers create a line of four facing down the hall with the topmost couple in the center of the line. Those four make two arches and "charge" down over the long lines to the foot.

57-64 After the charging group goes over, all the other dancers move up into the vacant space to begin again.

#### **Variations on this Idea:**

There are several variations on this and slightly different sequences shown on YouTube. One option is to begin with the Dosado and insert in 33-48: Turn Right-Hand with Partner across and fling free arm up and out with a "whee!" at the halfway point. Repeat this turning Left-Hand with Neighbor.

## Line Dance

### 16 Steps

**Choreographer Unknown  
Documented by: Winnie  
Yu (Dance Pooh), Canada**

**Formation:** Dancers begin facing the same direction in loose lines (no partners).

**Music:** Any disco tempo with clear 16-count phrasing.

**Usage:** The Turn and Tap is tricky. It may be helpful to demonstrate how the back and forward tilt for the heel and toe is repeated sideways for the left and right taps.

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

**13-16** **Right: Side, Close;**

**1-4** **Left: Side, Close;**

**5-8** **Heel, Toe, Turn, Tap;**

**9-12** **Step, Tap, 2 Stomps;**

#### Description:

1-4 Dancers begin with the right foot, step to the side, step on the left foot beside the right. Step to the side on the right foot, touch left foot next to right.

5-8 To the left repeat 1-4.

9-12 Touch right heel forward, touch right toe back. Step on right turning one-quarter to the right, and tap left toe out to left side.

13-16 Step forward on left foot and tap right toe out to the right side. Stomp on right foot and stomp on left foot.

#### Dance on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpghKcrQas>

## 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)  
Line Dances, Games & More

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](http://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*.

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

### Share Your Ideas

Send dance or theme ideas to  
Dottie Welch

415 Conrad Road,  
Lawrencetown, NS,  
Canada, B2Z 1S3

[dwelch@eastlink.ca](mailto:dwelch@eastlink.ca)

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

## Contras with Arch Over the Line

**Formation:** Proper contra lines of about six couples with partners facing. Traditionally, the gents are in the line on the prompter's right. In other situations, just direct the active dancers to come up over the line to their left or up over the line to their right respectively.

### No Name Contra

By Jerry Helt, Cincinnati, Ohio

(From *Dancing For Busy People*)

**Music:** "Love in the Country" or other 64-count music

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

**57-64 - - - -; Everybody Forward and Back;**

**1-8 - - - -; - Forward and Back again;**

**9-16 - - - -; Turn partner Right-Hand around;**

**17-24 - - - -; Turn partner Left-Hand around;**

**25-32 - - - -; Top Couple Slide or Strut to the foot;**

**33-40 Same couple arch and Promenade up over ladies;**

**41-48 - - - -; Promenade arch down over the gents;**

**49-56 - - - -; Everybody Swing with partner;**

#### Description:

33-48 During the arch, the gent is always on the inside.

### Shindig in the Barn

By Bob Howell, Cleveland, Ohio

(From *American Square Dance Magazine*, April 1986)

**Music:** "Shindig in the Barn" or other 64-count music

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

**57-64 - - - -; - Forward three and Clap;**

**1-8 - Back up four; - - Pass Thru;**

**9-16 - U-Turn Back; - Forward three and Clap;**

**17-24 - Back up four; - - Pass Thru;**

**25-32 - U-Turn Back; Top Couple Slide or Strut to the foot;**

**33-40 Same couple arch and Promenade up over gents;**

**41-48 - - - -; Promenade arch down over the ladies;**

**49-56 - - - -; Actives Swing while the rest move up;**

#### Description:

33-48 During the arch, the lady is always on the inside.

## Traditional Reel

### Strip the Willow

Traditional Dance from the Celts (1600s)

**Formation:** Proper contra lines of four to six couples with partners facing. Traditionally, gents are in the line on the prompter's right.

**Music:** This dance has always be associated with "Drops of Brandy" which is a 9/8 jig tune. Look for lively jigs, reels or alternatives.

**Usage:** It is rare that the dancers will actually complete the figure at the same time the music begins a new verse. When cueing, focus on the musical phrases of eight.

#### Prompts (for four couples):

*Intro or*

**73-80 1s Right Elbow Turn once and a half;**

**1-8 - - - ; Lady 1 turn Gent 2 by Left;**

**9-16 1s Turn Right; Lady 1 turn Gent 3 Left;**

**17-24 1s Turn Right; Lady 1 turn Gent 4 Left;**

**25-32 1s Turn Right; Gent 1 turn Lady 4 Left;**

**33-40 1s Turn Right; Gent 1 turn Lady 3 Left;**

**41-48 1s Turn Right; Gent 1 turn Lady 2 Left;**

**49-56 1s Turn Right; Both turn 2s Left;**

**57-64 1s Turn Right; Both turn 3s Left;**

**65-72 1s Turn Right; Both turn 4s Left;**

**73-80 1s Turn Right once and a half to end at the bottom on their original side;**

**Repeat until every couple has had a turn.**

#### Description:

The objective is to move the top couple to the bottom of the set while the other couples move up one position.

The first couple turn with each other once and a half so that the lady is facing the second gent.

The lady then "strips" down the line of gents alternating left-elbow turns with each gent and right-elbow turns with her partner.

Then the gent "strips" up the line of ladies alternating left-elbow turns with each lady and right-elbow turns with his partner.

Finally they both strip down the lines simultaneously, alternating left and right elbow turns as before and ending at the bottom.

## Square Dance Figures

### Sheehan's Reel

By Roger Whynot, Belmont, Mass. 1973

**Formation:** Square

**Music:** "Sheehan's Reel" or 64-count tune

**Usage:** Printed in *Balance and Swing* by Ted Sannella and classified as "For Beginners".

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

**57-64 - - - - ; Ladies into the center and back;**

**1-8 - - - - ; Gents into the center and back;**

**9-16 - - - - ; Four Ladies Right-Hand Star;**

**17-24 - - - - ; Go back with a Left-Hand Star;**

**25-32 - - - - ; Pass last partner, Dosado next;**

**33-40 - - - - ; - - Same two Swing;**

**41-48 - - - - ; Promenade once around;**

**49-56 - - - - ; - - - - ;**

### Reel Your Partner

By Ted Sannella, Concord, Massachusetts

**Formation:** Square

**Music:** "Westwind" or 64-count tune

**Usage:** Printed in *Balance and Swing* by Ted Sannella and classified as "For Beginners". Ted says, "Everyone dances all the time!" ... Even though the sequence is simple, the seldom used reel figure and the promenade to the lady's home make it a little different."

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

**57-64 With Partner; Right -Elbow Reel twice;**

**1-8 With Corner; Left-Elbow Reel twice;**

**9-16 - - - - ; - - Partner Dosado;**

**17-24 - - - - ; With Corner Allemande Left;**

**25-32 Walk by partner; with next Balance;**

**33-40 - - and Swing; - - - - ;**

**41-48 - - - - ; Promenade to the Lady's home;**

**49-56 - - - - ; - - - - ;**

#### Description:

In this dance "reel" means an elbow turn with a brisk walking step. The intended timing is twice around in eight counts.