

Social Scene – Club Dances
CALLERLAB – 2012
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HOST COUPLES

Everyone in the club should be doing this but having an assigned host couple(s) gives the dancers a focal person(s).

- Number one job is to make everyone feel welcome and part of the group whether they are club members or guests!
- Greeters at the door – club members and the caller once he/she is set up.
- Visiting with people who are sitting out a tip during the dance.
- Making sure the new dancers are introduced to club members who are not angels.
- Making sure the new dancers are in a square, especially at the beginning of the dance.

GETTING EVERYONE INVOLVED

When people work and play together, they become friends.

- Taking turns with duties (hosts, putting out food, etc.)
- Committees to share the work and play: *Many hands make light work!*
 1. Class coordinators
 2. Banner Stealing and Retrieving
 3. Decorations
 4. Set up and clean up
 5. Refreshments
 6. Promoting the dance (flyers, announcements, free passes, potlucks, etc.)

THEME DANCES

These can be so much fun and can really make the dance whether the theme is elaborate or simple! Examples could be:

- **Elaborate**
 1. **Prom:** Have the dancers dress as if they were going to their Senior Prom - Have decorations, photographers, crown a king and queen.
 2. **Fifties:** Dancers wear Poodle skirts for the girls, rolled up jeans and white t-shirts for the guys, letter-sweaters. Decorations, food, and music (requested from caller ahead) can be based on a Malt Shop.
 3. **Wedding Anniversary:** Have married couples bring a wedding picture/album to the dance to share with other dancers. Have a wedding cake for refreshments.
- **Simple:**
 1. **Dangle dance:** Either just one dangle such as a heart for Valentines Day or several dangles that can be “earned” throughout the evening. These could be yellow rocks, flashlight dangles (dancing in the dark), or crackpot dangles (dancing in the bathroom), just to name a few. There are hundreds of dangles to choose from. As a club, you buy the dangles and either give them away or have them available for the dancers to buy, if they wish.
 2. **Pie dance:** A variety of pies are served for refreshments.

3. **“Special music” dance:** All the music is of one theme. This could be a type of music such as disco or western, or it could be all the songs have to do with love, travel, or transportation. Dancers may dress according to the theme if they wish.
4. **“Special color” dance:** Everyone wears the same color: Red, blue, black, etc.

SPECIAL TIPS

Special tips should be arranged with your caller ahead of time so he/she is prepared.

- **Mixer tip:** Arrange to make your second or third tip a mixer tip. Invite everyone onto the floor to participate. There are a variety of mixer dances that can be used depending on the number of people dancing – circle dances, six-couple dancing, scatter promenade, all same-gender squares, exploding squares, or progressive squares.
- **Non-dancer tip:** If there are guests at the dance who are non-dancers, invite them up for a quick teach/sample dance. Make sure each non-dancer is paired with an established dancer.

REFRESHMENTS

Everyone enjoys visiting over food. It is the most social activity in life, whether you are a dancer or not. When to put out refreshments at a dance is a long-standing discussion point.

- **During the dance:** The dancers have a chance to munch all through the dance, visiting between the tips. When the dancers must be out of the hall by a certain time, this is a good way to go because the refreshments can be cleaned up immediately after the last tip.
- **After the dance:** Putting the refreshments after a dance allows dancers to sit and relax and visit until they are ready to leave.

AFTER PARTIES

After Parties can be held at the dance location or at another site and can really cement the friendships that start at the dances. Ask the caller to participate. They are used to being on stage and it helps the dancers relax.

- **At Dance Location:**
 1. **Potluck:** This can be done either before or after the dance, depending on what time the dance is. Everyone has a chance to visit and really get to know each other over a wonderful meal.
 2. **Skits:** Arrange for a couple people to get up and do some short skits after the dance.
 3. **Talent show:** Similar to the skit night, dancers can get up and show off their talents – singing, playing an instrument, or reading original poetry, for example.
- **At another location:**
 1. Stop at the local fast food place for beverages and/or desserts. Invite everyone at the dance to join you. Call the restaurant ahead of time so they are ready for you.
 2. If the dance is in the afternoon, invite the dancers back to your house or clubhouse, if available, for some cards or board games.