



American Callers' Association

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WEB PAGE - AMERICANCALLERS.NET APRIL, MAY, JUNE -- 2021 NEWSLETTER

From the President:

Hi folks, I hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy during these very awkward times. April 9, 2021 To begin, I have some sad news. Wes Dyer, often know as 'Big Enis' from the Louisville, Kentucky area passed away on Thursday, April 8, 2021. Wes always had a smile and a good heart he was always willing to help promote Square Dancing. Following is a link to his obituary, please keep the friends and family in your thoughts. <http://www.norris-new.com/obituary/James-Dyer>

This entire pandemic situation has taken a huge toll on our activity. It has caused not only this caller of 45 years to rethink the situation but many other callers and dancers. I feel that we will lose at least ½ of our dance population due to not only age but the fact that they have gotten used to doing other activities, mainly nothing.

In my opinion the only way that we can get back to Square Dancing is to start at ground zero. We don't need another dance program; only participants. There are too many callers that want to "pick the fruit off or the tree" and not "plant the crop." The new dancer to the activity has no idea when they come to the first night whether there are 10 calls or 100 calls, if we show them a good time, they will return.

There is discussion among some callers and dancers of another square dance program. In my opinion this will only hurt our activity. I believe the only way that it will start up again is to forget all the so called levels, for they have only divided us as dancers, but start with ONE Square Dance activity. When we all Square Danced, the halls were full. The problem is too many callers don't want to have to work at it. Remember what you were told as kids, "you have to work at anything worthwhile." This still holds true in Square Dancing.

Best of luck to everyone, stay safe and healthy, we all are looking forward to the day when we can dance ag

STARTING BACK

Before I start, I'd like to say that I support the concept of one level of dancing for our current "club" level until we can rebuild our activity. It appears that most of the country, if not the world, has mixed the levels and are not dancing Mainstream which is the true start of our activity. When all of the levels were developed by Callerlab it was understood that you did not mix the levels at a dance this was stated by Bob Osgood who did a great service for Square Dancing for many years. When all the levels were started by Callerlab they were very clear that you do not mix levels at a dance.

If the dance was a Mainstream dance THAT is what was called and you would have to dance that level for a least ONE YEAR before you were allowed to go on to a Plus class. If you wanted to go to plus dance then you must take a plus class. In order to be able to dance that you would have been through a Plus class and be able to dance Plus. I know when the levels started I had a plus club with over 20 squares dancing every dance and from time to time we would have dancers walk in to dance that could not dance Plus. Then it was my duty as the Caller to explain to them that you must have completed a plus class in order to dance with this club. When Plus was started there was a plus 1 & Plus 2 then it was all put together and it was just Plus.

When Callerlab began to make the lesson class longer you could only teach one class a year. Then when plus dancers and callers started to try and push dancers into Plus before they had been allowed time to feel comfortable dancing mainstream we began to see mainstream classes no longer around as way of adding new people to our activity.

When my wife and I started dancing there was only one level and it called Square Dancing. When you walked into that square dance hall you were just a square dancer and everyone in the hall just a square dancer. NO dancer was any more important than the next one.

We were all there to enjoy the Music, the Dancing, the Fun and Fellowship of all the other dancers. With all the dancers that we have lost because of this COVID-19 that will never return to the Square dance activity because of their age and because they have lost so many of their friends. We have a chance to start Square Dancing back the way it was when was started to be a place where people could get together and have fun and dancing. We can do this if we make the dancer the reason for the dancing and not the Callers and Round Dancer cues. We are the paid help of the dancers. After 64 years in this I hope we can do it right this time

Mac Letson

We have to try to cut corners and do everything we can to keep Square Dancing going
Until we have enough dancers to support more than just mainstream dancing we have
to do what every we have to do to get this activity going again
That is most likely to mean that we as Dancers and Callers are going to have to work
together to build this activity back again and be able to have more than 1 level.
One of the things I would like to see happen is that the dancers take back their activity
And start to pay for the music performance license that is by law the club should be
paying for the music performance license. The Federal Law states that the sponsor of
the event or the sponsoring organization Shall obtain a music performance license to
do a public performance of copyrighted Music. A caller when employed by a square
dance club is neither he or she are not the ones sponsoring Dance. They are paid HELP.

When this all started we went to BMI and ASCAP and they agreed that if the Caller
was licensed the dance was covered. If the Round Dance Cuer at a Round Dance club
was Licensed then that Dance was covered. Most Round Dance Cuers like Square
Dance Callers know that this agreement with ASCAP/BMI is best for the activity
There are some dance club that have in the past paid for the Caller or Cuers license
and since we now do not how this will work out starting over or how Many dancers are
left that will come back to dancing we need to be aware of the cost for callers and cuers
To have to pay for the Music License.

We have lost so many great Callers and Cuers through the Year that we have not been
able to dance and it looks like some of them will never come back to dancing.

We have lost so many great callers

Marshall Flippo

Jerry Haag

Jerry Story

Wes Dyer

And so many more that I do not remember the name of them all. But they shall all be
Missed we thank them for their gift to square and Round dancing.

See you all in Jackson MS at the national Square Dance Convention

Mac Letson

Square dancing leaders have denied the problem of lengthy and stressful dances classes while some acclaimed callers blamed other club callers. In reality, the product is the problem. The worldwide decline in the numbers of square dancing lies at the recruiting and retention level. Let us look at why people join square dance lessons and clubs. They join because of the new friendships and to enjoy the: "fun" and fellowship that square dancing offers. If either of these are missing, the new dancers drop off. To deny the fact that the absurdly long period of square dances lessons for new dancers and the stressful and unequal and segregated dance programs awaiting new dancers cause the dancers to leave square dancing is like "putting our heads in the sand".

Two members of American Callers' Association has developed a Program which will keep everyone dancing together and can be taught in as little as three to four months is one answer to convert square dancing to the needs of today's society. The dance Program is so well designed That a dancer could teach a square dance class if they follow the program the way that it is written. This program has all the calls written out so you can understand them.

Developed by three callers Ralph Trout of New Jersey, John Carlton of Texas & Wes Morris.

The Dance Program is not anything new it is the Basic & Mainstream program but it has no restriction on the calls that is to say you have to do the call the way some callers group says you can or can do the call the definition of the call by the way it was written by the caller that created it is the way it should be done. No caller or group of callers has the right to change something they did not create or restrict the use of a call they did not create. bring in excess of 95% of the dancers together by reducing and simplifying the current cumbersome and separatist dance programs. All of this has to start with the basis of the square dance activity which is BASIC & MAINSTREAM this where we have to rebuild this activity.

This is a time to unite the vast majority of the dancers and to simplify square dancing. The ownership of calls and the definitions are based in Public Domain and are not the property of any single organization. The Board of Directors of the American Callers Association unanimously encourages callers to teach movements as they were written, teach more than one approach to the maneuvers, and show patience and understanding to their students. This way we can do more with less, reduce the stress on the callers and dancers and help stop the loss of dancers.

The Callers' Association is dedicated to publicize promote and preserve square dancing continuously invests all its assets, time and funds to communicate with callers, dancers, and associations to bring the dancers back together and at the same time the American Callers' Association stays tuned into the desires and needs of the dancers. The greatest need today is to have enough dancers to keep the activity going while we rebuild square dancing The Board of Directors of the American Callers' Association invites each of you to visit our website and newsletters at americancallers.net news and communicate with us. Give us your ideas "We Will Listen".

MAINSTREAM MATERIAL
FEATURING - SLIDE THRU

Heads SLIDE THRU & ZOOM
Sides SLIDE THRU & Back up
Heads SLIDE THRU & ZOOM
Sides SLIDE THRU & Backup
ALLEMAND LEFT
RIGHT & LEFT GRAND
Promenade home

Head or Sides
PASS THE OCEAN
SLIDE THRU
SQUARE THRU 2
(Box 1-4)
PASS THE OCEAN
SLIDE THRU
PASS TO THE CENTER
Centers SQUARE THRU 3
(Box 1-4)
ALLEMANDE LEFT
WEAVE THE RING

PROMENDE home

Heads or Sides
1/2 SASHAY SLIDE THRU
TOUCH 1/4
SLIDE THRU
Centers TRADE
WHEEL & DEAL
PASS THRU
TRADE BY
(Box 1-4)
ALLEMAND LEFT
RIGHT & LEFT GRAND
PROMENADE home.

Heads or Sides
SQUARE THRU 4
(Box 1-4)
TOUCH 1/4 SLIDE THRU
WHEEL & DEAL
PASS THE OCEAN
SINGLE HINGE
SINGLE FILE CIRCULATE
SLIDE THRU
WHEEL & DEAL
CIRCLE LEFT
Until you get back home.

Heads or Sides
1/2 SASHAY
SQUARE THRU 4
SPLIT 2 AROUND ONE
TO A LINE
Center 4 SQUARE THRU 4
Ends SLIDE THRU
SWING THRU
Boys TRADE
BOX THE GNAT
Change Hands
ALLEMANDE LEFT
RIGHT & LEFT GRAND
PROMENDE home.

(Zero - 1p-2p)
Center 4 BOX THE GNAT &
SQUARE THRU 4
Ends STAR THRU
All SLIDE THRU
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
(1p-2p)

Some of the material used in the Note Service will seem basic to some callers but remember We are trying to help the new caller as well as some material will help experienced callers Remember things they use to do that dancers liked.

Heads or Sides
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
PASS THE OCEAN- EXTEND
Box 1-4 Wave

U -TURN BACK
CAST OFF 3/4
ALL 8 CIRCULATE
U-TURN BACK - CAST OFF 3/4
GIRLS CIRCULATE-BOYS RUN
TAG THE LINE-LEFT
PROMENADE home.

Face your corner
PASS THRU
U TURN BACK
PASS THRU
DOSADO
WEAVE THE RING
PROMENADE home.

Heads PASS THRU & U TURN BACK
Sides PASS THRU & U TURN BACK
Heads PASS THRU & U TURN BACK
Sides PASS THRU & UTURN BACK
Square your sets.

(2 quick easy Openers)
Heads SQUARE THRU 4
& U-TURN BACK
Sides Face
RIGHT AND LEFT GRAND
PROMENADE home.

Heads or Sides
PROMENADE 1/2 -UTURN BACK
SEPERATE AROUND ONE
Come into the middle and
SQUARE THRU 2
All Face Right
RIGHT & LEFT GRAND
PROMENADE home

(Static Square-Get In)
Heads or Sides
PASS THRU
U-TURN BACK
STAR THRU
(Box 1-4)

(Get out- Box 1-4)
PASS THRU U-TURN BACK
PASS THRU
Sides face RIGHT & LEFT GRAND

STIR THE BUCKET

THANKS
RALPH TROUT
2778 CEDAR ST
MILLVILLE, NJ. 08332
PH # 856-447-3436

4 LADIES CHAIN - HEADS STAR THRU
PASS THRU -RIGHT & LEFT THRU
Centers U-TURN BACK--STAR THRU &
California Twirl. _