



American Caller's Association

P.O. Box 2406 Muscle Shoals AL. 35662 loulet@aol.com

PH 256-383-7585 [Email Mac@americancallers.net](mailto:Mac@americancallers.net) [Web Americancallers.net](http://Web.Americancallers.net)

Newsletter Oct-Nov-Dec 2021

I'll begin this newsletter with some info about a fellow Callers passing. Dick Mackey of Wooster, Ohio passed away Dick was a huge promoter of Square Dancing and will be missed by many, Dick was a member of ACA for many years, Rest in Peace Dick.

Many clubs are getting back to Square Dancing, but as I see it, the numbers are down considerably. This year at the National Square Dance convention in Jackson, Mississippi there were only 1800 in attendance, that's a far cry from 30,000 which is what it was when I attended. I feel that it will be quite some time before we are able to show an increase in numbers, especially if we don't get on the same track.

We as members of American Callers also need to spread the word about the organization. Feel free to print the ACA application and pass it out, the more we spread the word, the more members we acquire. American Callers is another alternative to an ASCAP/BMI license and liability insurance. We as callers should have a choice as to where we get our license and not be forced to belong to any one organization; this is another reason to spread the word about American Callers Association.

Regardless of which list we teach new dancers by we need to go back to being **Square Dancers**. Today we all have many choices as to what activity we participate in, it seems harder and harder to recruit new square dancers, in my opinion we need to spread the word about the fun we have as **Square Dancers**, this will make people want to join our activity.

Best of luck to everyone let's spread the word that ACA is an alternative to an ASCAP/BMI license and also to liability insurance. Remind the dancers that we are not only Plus dancers, Advance dancers, etc, etc, but we are all **Square Dancers** and that we do this for fun, if we let them see this, they will come.

Tom Roper

We did not receive the letter in time for the last newsletter, so we wanted to include it in this newsletter. Dick Mackey was a member of American Callers for as long as I can remember, he was a good man and a Good Caller and good men like Dick will be missed. Thank you for all you did.

Mac Letson

Ten Commandments to follow in Life

1. Prayer is not a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble, it’s “steering wheel” that directs the right path throughout the journey.
2. SO why is a car’s Windshield so large & the rear view Mirror so small? Because our Past is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong don’t worry, they can’t last long either
5. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamonds! If you get a Diamond, don’t forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of Gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, “Relax, Sweetheart, it’s just a bend, not the end!
7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn’t solve your problem GOD has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony “Can there be anything worse than losing eyesight?” he replied: “Yes losing your vision!”
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and something, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow’s TROUBLES, it takes today’s PEACE

If you enjoyed this, please pass it on to others. Brighten someone’s Day.

Live Simply, love generously, Care deeply and Speak Kindly.

PASS IT ON and Leave the rest to GOD

Ralph Trout

Square Dance Caller

2776 Cedar Street, Millville, N.J. 08332-9401
(856) 447-3439 • Cell: (609) 364-5475 • email: ralphht2@yahoo.com
Recording: G & W . Red Boot . Mason Dixon Line Records

Resume

Experience - Active Square Dancer, Caller and instructor for 52 years in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland and surrounding areas including Hawaii and Bermuda.

Recording - G & W Records, Red Boot Records and Mason Dixon Line Records with over 8 records recorded.

Professional Memberships - Callerlab 20 years and was on the Board of Directors, Certified Callers Coach, Past President of the Dance Leaders of Delaware Valley, and various Callers Organizations. I am currently a member of American Callers Association and licensed by BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.) and ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) to play copyrighted music.

Education and Leadership - Graduate of several recognized Callers Colleges in the Northeast. Taught Callers Colleges in several areas in the United States with Cal Golden from Arkansas for 7 years.

Additional Information - Featured Caller at Square Dance Weekends, Festivals, and Square Dance Conventions throughout the United States.

Played and wrote music for 30 years, worked in recording studios and traveled with many bands throughout the United States.

Also involved at the present time singing A-capella Barbershop Chorus and Quartets for 25 years and member of Barbershop Society of the United States in Nashville, Tennessee.

Member of Millville Elk's #580, Millville, N.J. and have held every office from Exalted Ruler to Trustee for 26 years.

Revised: September 1, 2021
Ralph Trout

REBUILDING THE SQUARE DANCE ACTIVITY

We have seen so many bad things happen to the activity that we all love. But there is not very much left to love and if we really care for the Square Dance Activity, we are going to have to go back and look at what we have done since this activity has gotten in such bad shape.

We need to go back and look at where we started when we only had Square Dancing and see if we can find out where we went wrong. One of the first things that I remember is that when all these levels were started. The rule was a strict rule that when you completed the Mainstream Program you could not go to the Plus class until you danced at Mainstream for one Year.

The reason was simple this gave your new dancers a chance to bond with the Club members and develop friendships that would last a lifetime. And it gave you a chance to help with the new Class and to pay back for the help that you were given when you started.

Back then the club members were in charge of the club and its success depended on leadership of the dancers and the Callers working together to teach the Class and it was the Callers job to say when the class was ready to Dance with the Club. The reason for a rule like that was very easy to understand. This way the club members could know when a new dancer walked in a square, they were able to dance and not cause a breakdown of the Square.

Back when Callers and dancers worked hand in hand to help new dancers get through Basic & Mainstream and feel like they belonged to Square Dancing. We had a good working System that put a large number of dancers on the floor. That extra year of working with the club and helping new dancers understand that they would have to do the same for the next class

Now the dancers don't want to Sever as an officer in the club or help new dancers. Most dancers have never known anything except what the caller tells them. Yet the dancers are the ones that make the new dancer feel like they belong. When the class is over the thing that causes new dancers to stay in dancing will always be the experience dancers and how willing they are to help the new ones. I do not know how many times I have heard dancers say I don't want to help the new dancers, and I wonder where you would be if no one help you when you started. SURPRISE WE ARE THEIR NOW.

THERE IS NO LEVEL IN SQUARE DANCING THAT WOULD EXIST TODAY HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE PEOPLE THAT CARED ENOUGH FOR THE NEW DANCER TO HELP THEM AND MAKE THEM FEEL LIKE THEY WERE WELCOM AND A PART OF SQUARE DANCING. I THINK WITH THE NUMBERS THAT WE SEE ON ANY FLOOR TODAY SAYS IT ALL. WHEN YOU WALK AWAY FROM MAINSTREAM AND ARE NOT WILLING TO SEE THAT THIS IS OUR FUTURE. YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING TO DO. I hope we can all remember this is where we have to spend our time until we get the activity back to where it will support ALL THE LEVELS. That's going to take time and have the one year before they can move on to the next level. Since the activity was taken over by callers all we get is PUSH, PUSH. Dancers have very little to say about that.

SPREAD THE WORD

It looks like the return of Square Dancing is going so much slower than we had all expected it to be. I believe that it will take us longer for everything to get going again and the more I hear from dancers and callers that they have not started back because they cannot get the older dancers back. They say that they cannot get enough dancers together to pay the hall rent much less to pay the Caller

Some of the dancers that I have talked to say that they are not going back to dancing because of their age and the fear of Covid-19. We are looking at a lot of the dancers that we had before Covid that will never be back dancing again. One lady told me that they had danced for 40 years and that they would not come back because some of the dancers of today did not take the Covid-19 shots. We know that is their chose and I can understand I have been calling over 60 years.

We will hear all kind of reason why DANCERS do not want to come back to square dancing. Many of them will have to be replaced by new dancers. I do not believe that we will be able to get the number of dancers that we need at first and will have to teach several classes and I hope we can see the value in going back to the rule that we had when all the levels that started and that rule was you had to dance Mainstream for one year after you completed a mainstream class. That was so you would have people to help with the next class and remember that we were not trying to teach for 40 weeks back then and by doing it this way the new dancer would have time to get to know all the people that they had gone through the class bond with the club members to feel like they belonged and were doing their part to pay back the club that had helped them get through the class. Back then the dancers were in charge of the everything except the class that was the caller's job to say when the class would be ready to dance with the club and this gave the new dancer time to gain more knowledge of what they had spent in the class.

That's the only way we can get the activity going again. This is where we have to make up our mind and decide If we want to have SQUARE DANCING that will attract more people that will enjoy all of the fun and fellowship of our great Activity. That was the thing that sold Square Dancing to most everyone that be came a Square Dancer before we got all these 9 or 10 levels that Callers were trying to push before the Covid-19 shutdown. I think that most dancers today do not even know what Square Dancing was like when all the levels were started are even knew who started all the levels or why they started. It was because the dancers in the higher levels could not go out and get new people to start at the dance level that they were pushing.

Advance & challenge could not get dancers to support their levels without they had been taught all of the levels below. They had to rob the efforts of Basic, Mainstream and Plus Callers by this time dancers had made so many friends and relationships they did not want to leave.

By the time we get this activity rebuilt we should KNOW and remember that this is a dancer activity and that we as Callers are employees of the Dancers. Less you want to pay yourself.

We are not the whole SHOW if you think that way? Try getting paid without dancers.

Now to all the complaints and complements we have had about putting this Information in the newsletter about the note service a teaching program they was developed by three callers all were members of American Callers our friend that has passed away (Wes Morris) the two remaining Ralph Trout and John Carlton the three that worked on the basic and mainstream program and Plus program for over ten years. Believe me a dancer could take this program the way it is explained with all the definition of the calls, the styling, and timing. Teaching tips and everything that you could every need to teach Square Dancing. They put everything in the teaching manual that you will every need to teach new dancers.

Even if you do not have a caller in your area a Square Dancer that has been dancing for some time could take this Program and Teach people to dance it has the calls and figures printed next to the lesson plan. They have some very good figures in the Teaching manual.

We are going to have to rebuild this activity and we do not have enough callers left after this Covid -19 thing to get square dancing rebuilt. So many of our Callers that we had when this Covid thing hit have quit calling will not be back. If all the callers will work together we can do this.

Some of the material used in this manual will seem Basic to some callers, but remember we are trying to help the new caller it may help you remember some things that you used to do.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS TEACHING PROGRAM PLEASE CALL
JOHN CARLTON AT - 210-5214044 are RALPH TROUT AT 856-447-3439**

American Callers membership has not voted to make any changes in the ACA teaching programs. The reason we are printing the information on this program is because all of the callers that developed this program are all members of ACA. I think this one of the best programs that I have seen but that's just my opinion. Go to Americancallers.net and print a copy of the ACA program.

Mac Letson