



American Caller's Association

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Newsletter July-September 2023

It was a real pleasure to see and talk to some of our members at the 72nd National Square and Round Dance Convention in Mobile a couple of weeks back. Mac Letson had a booth for us and was working to continue to spread the word about ACA. The red vests provided to members of the executive board were helpful in getting discussions started with non ACA callers. Hopefully a few new members will come about from it. Please continue to promote our organization and let's all work to keep square dancing alive and get it back to growing.

I was on a panel in Mobile with a number of the national organizations represented. The panel ended up mostly focusing on what we can do to make the new dancers feel welcome in our clubs. USDA has some materials available you might want to look at for your club. The summary was basically that if they feel like they are a part of the group, they will stay and prosper. Over the years I have seen many callers that want to show these new dancers what they don't know, instead of helping them along the trail of success. In an after panel discussion it was talked about that dancers learn the moves in class but learn to dance after classes are over. Please help keep these new dancers having fun.

The board is interested in making ACA better for our members. If you have an idea of something we are not doing that we should add, or something we should quit doing, let us know. I know the website needs some attention and if there is a member with some expertise, let me know. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

There are a lot of videos available from the convention. If you are a Facebook user, just search 72nd National and it should take you to their page. It can be a great tool for "researching" some choreography. One thing I really missed at national was the record producer booths. I enjoyed talking to some of the artists back in those days, and there were always lots of new releases. Now we have the fantastic sight of Music for Callers but it is not the same. Please continue to buy music from your favorite labels and do not sure the downloads. They deserve to make a return on their investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the ACA and all callers. Let me know if you have thoughts on anything in my articles. I want to learn from you.

Keep 'em square and in case you forgot, wash your hands.

Bill Chesnut
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Hello everyone, hope you are have a great beginning of summer. We had a great time visiting with each of you that came to visit our booth at the National convention in Mobile a couple of weeks ago. I appreciate all the kind words and support that ACA received there. We look forward to meeting more of you at future conventions.

We were very encouraged by the attendance this year and hope this is a sign of great things in the future of square dancing. We would like to encourage all of you that can participate in the convention next year to do so. It is a great opportunity to meet new dancers and have a great time in doing so.

We want to remind you that we have tons of information on our website that you are welcome to explore and use. Let us know if you have any additions that you would like us to add to the newsletter. We also are not going to be printing and mailing newsletters any longer. If you would like to have a hard copy you can print it from the website. If you have no way of printing it, your local library would be able to print it for you.

We are going to be implementing a new email address, and it will be macletson@outlook.com. Please add this address to your email address book so not to miss future communications from ACA. At the end of this year we plan to drop the aol email and only communicate through the outlook email.

Until we get Square Dancing going again we are going to have start trying to get everyone to work gather on the foundation level of our activity and remember without a strong Mainstream we have just had it proved to everyone that square cannot ever come back. Today most SQ Dance clubs have from 2 to 3 squares dancing and are having a hard time getting people take lessons, because they are too long and too hard. We do not allow them time to enjoy even know how to do what they have learned and if you will be honest.

We have to get back to (You must stay in main stream for one year before they can go to plus, and this way we can maintain a foundation level.) For the last thirty years we have killed our foundation Level. By the time a new dancer got through Mainstream and in most cases the day after they got through Mainstream we had a Plus Dancer trying to get them into Plus class.

We must bring back the order that we had back when we allowed the new dancer to become a Square Dancer first and they cannot do it when we were pushing them into the next level when they did not have time to enjoy what they had worked so hard to get through in a Mainstream Class. The mainstream classes are the foundation of this thin Called Square Dancing. We must let them have time to enjoy what they have learned if we expect them to go out and get their friends for the next class and they will not do that when you are pushing them into the next level. I believe that it's time for the dancers to take back the leadership of Square Dancing and the callers go back to be paid employees of the square dancers. This is based on over 60 years of calling and teaching Square Dancing.

Mac Letson

THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE ALL THE LEVELS

It's time for the dancers to take back their activity, for after thirty years of Callers telling them how to run the show you cannot get dancers to do anything except dance. They don't have time to help new folks that want to learn to square dance because they are too busy getting up the next level to even ask someone that does not dance to try it or to be there to help.

If this is to go on much longer we can look forward to not having any square dancing for anyone, the reason being all the levels. Dancers were one big Happy Family helping each other enjoying the friendship and fellowship of Square Dancing and we had Friendships that lasted a lifetime.

I do remember when we first heard of the start of the level ladder it was called Plus 1&2 and you were required to stay in Mainstream for a year to help the new Class and could NOT go to Plus one for one year and I cannot remember how long you had to stay in Plus but they did put 1&2 to gather and called it just PLUS. Keeping Mainstream and Plus separated gave the callers another night of calling and if they were teaching Classes for the clubs this gave them another night and they did not have time to manage anything except what they were being paid for and that's called working for the dancers, not telling them how to run their Square Dance Clubs.

But the callers were willing to help the club in any way that they could but not to run the club. We had very few callers run clubs. If Callers were doing their job that they were being pay for they did not have the time to run the Club, and they did not need to take that away from the dancers. When the dancers had nothing to do but Dance they did not feel like they were a part of the club and not willing to do anything to help.

We must get back to the Dancers being the ones that run Square Dancing clubs and the Callers have all they can do to do their job and help the dancers do a better job if they ask for help the caller should offer to help them on a one on one with the club officers this will have everyone in square dancing doing everything they can to make this a activity that grows and grows again and will keep everyone in the club happy for they will all feel like they are doing everything they can to make square dancing something that everyone will want to be a part off.

The reality is that ever one wants to do what they can to make square dancing grow and be something that people will want to be a part of something that brings people together again and caused them after they have had time to get to know all the dancers in the group. They will want to bring their friend into Square Dancing with them.

AS COUPLES MOVEMENTS

AS COUPLES MOVEMENTS are listed on the Callerlab Advanced List, do we realize how many Couple Movements are listed on the Basic and Mainstream List.

There are “no” Couple Movements on the Plus List. Here are the Couple Movements on the Basic and Mainstream List.

(BASIC LIST)

1. FORWARD & BACK
2. PROMENADE
COUPLES FULL AROUND
1/2 or 3/4
3. WRONG WAY PROMENADE
COUPLES FULL AROUND
1/2 or 3/4
4. STAR PROMENADE
5. WRONG WAY
STAR PROMENADE
6. COURTESY TURN
7. WHEEL AROUND
8. REVERSE WHEEL AROUND
9. DIVE THRU
10. LEAD TO THE RIGHT
11. LEAD TO THE LEFT
12. CIRCLE TO A LINE

13. VEER TO THE LEFT
14. VEER TO THE RIGHT
15. BEND THE LINE
16. WHEEL & DEAL
17. FERRIS WHEEL
18. SWEEP 1/4
19. 1st COUPLE LEFT/RIGHT
20. 2nd COUPLE LEFT/RIGHT
21. COUPLES TRADE
22. COUPLES CIRCULATE
23. COME INTO THE MIDDLE
24. SPLIT TWO

(MAINSTREAM LIST)

1. CENTERS IN
2. CAST OFF 3/4
LINES FACING OUT
AND 2 FACED LINES
3. COUPLES HINGE

(Helpful Hint) When doing AS COUPLES MOVEMENTS, put your center arms around each others waist as you go through the calls. This way there is one free left hand and one free right hand.

On page 35 we will use “NOVELTY and FUN” combinations of Basic and Mainstream Choreography.

Heads or Sides
SQUARE THRU 4
SWING THRU
Boys RUN
AS COUPLES SCOOT BACK
WHEEL & DEAL
PASS TO THE CENTER
Centers SQUARE THRU 3
ALLEMANDE LEFT
PROMENADE *home*.

Heads or Sides
SQUARE THRU 4
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
VEER TO THE LEFT
AS COUPLES SCOOT BACK
AS COUPLES WALK & DODGE
PARTNER TRADE
FLUTTER WHEEL
SLIDE THRU
ALLEMANDE LEFT
PROMENADE *home*.

Heads or Sides
SQUARE THRU 4
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
VEER TO THE LEFT
AS COUPLES CIRCULATE
AS COUPLES SCOOT BACK
WHEEL & DEAL
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
PASS TO THE CENTER
Centers PASS THRU
ALLEMANDE LEFT
PROMENADE *home*.

Heads or Sides
LEAD TO THE RIGHT
CIRCLE TO A LINE
AS COUPLES EXTEND TO A WAVE
AS COUPLES SWING THRU
Boys RUN RIGHT
Boys TRADE
SPIN THE TOP
SWING THRU
BOX THE GNAT
SQUARE THRU 3
ALLEMANDE LEFT
PROMENADE *home*.

Heads or Sides
PROMENADE 1/2
PASS THE OCEAN
EXTEND
SWING THRU
Boys RUN
AS COUPLES WALK & DODGE
PARTNER TRADE
FLUTTER WHEEL
SLIDE THRU
PASS TO THE CENTER
Centers SQUARE THRU 3
ALLEMANDE LEFT
PROMENADE *home*.

Heads or Sides
LEAD TO THE RIGHT
CIRCLE TO A LINE
AS COUPLES EXTEND TO A WAVE
AS COUPLES SWING THRU
AS COUPLES SPIN THE TOP
Boys RUN RIGHT
Boys TRADE
BOX THE GNAT
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
SQUARE THRU 2
ALLEMANDE LEFT
PROMENADE *home*.

**-CTP-NOTES-
-CALLER TEACHING PROGRAM-
-QUARTERLY-
-NOTE SERVICE-**

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JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER
2023

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JOHN_R_CARLTON
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PUZZLE/QUIZ

With the names of the Calls, BASIC through PLUS, what word is used the most in naming the Calls? (14 Times)

"The answer will be in our next issue of the Note Service".

SINGING CALLS

BASIC

Heads or Sides
SQUARE THRU 4
SWING THRU
Boys RUN
FERRIS WHEEL
Centers RIGHT
& LEFT THRU
And SQUARE THRU 3
SWING CORNER
PROMENADE.

MAINSTREAM

Heads or Sides
PROMENADE 1/2
SQUARE THRU 4
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
PASS THRU
TRADE BY
SWING THRU
SPIN THE TOP
SLIDE THRU
SWING CORNER
PROMENADE.

PLUS

Heads or Sides
FLUTTER WHEEL
PASS THE OCEAN
SWING THRU
PING PONG
CIRCULATE
EXTEND
SPLIT CIRCULATE
Boys RUN
BEND THE LINE
PASS THE OCEAN
Boys RUN
PROMENADE.

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