

CALLERS CORNER

A forum for the exchange of information
between Callers & Dancers

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HAND CONTACT !!

I'm usually not one to "harp" on things HOWEVER, in the past month or so I've had a number of dancers come to me to 'complain' about their hands and/or shoulder being "hurt" **yes, HURT**, by other dancers !

The prime problem has been the 'gripping' & 'holding' during Ocean Waves & the ensuing Swing Thrus, but also with Arm Turns (all) & even Courtesy Turns !

SO, WHAT'S GOING ON ??.

The first issue of Callers Corner dealt with 'hand contact' to some degree, but I guess it **NEEDS REPEATING**, so here's some 'excerpts from that first column.

.. hand position...will be most comfortable if dancers have their hands up, palm to palm, with the dancers on each side.....The palm to palm contact is comfortable if the palms are turned or angled clockwise slightly, but, in doing this, the contact should not become a grip or a hold – just a light pressure contact!

*....for Ocean Waves, it's 'palm to palm' contact with **NO GRIPS!** Just maintain slight pressure towards each other but do not close your hand over the other!*

Swing Thru from Ocean Waves is only one movement from which, with incorrect hand contact, injuries can result. "Death grips" or two-handed arm turns; California twirls; left/right stars;

allemande thars; and many more movements which, with incorrect "hand contact", can result in potential injury to a dancer.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS!

Do YOU use 'palm to palm' contact, or do you close your hand over others? Do you grab thumbs? On arm turns, do you grip the other arm or maintain gentle pressure? *Are you aware of what kind of hand contact that you're using?* Are you gentle or rough? **Think about it the next time you're dancing Please !!**

AND THERE WILL BE MANY A DANCER OUT THERE MOST GRATEFUL THAT YOU DID !

If you have any questions or comments you can send them directly to me by email at: askthecaller@squaresandrounds.com or by "snail mail" to the Square Times Editor, who'll pass it along. All questions will be answered and those that would be of interest to all will be published in this column, with anonymity ensured unless you request otherwise.

Please keep your questions coming !!

ASK THE CALLER



Questions Finally !!.. Thank You !

Question 1:

Actually there was 2 questions, which I'll combine & give one answer.

- "At a convention, what is 'proper dress'? Must ladies wear crinolines?*
- What is the meaning of 'prairie dress' for ladies*

Answer 1a:

Although I'm not an 'expert' on dress, particularly for the ladies, what I can do is provide the information that's currently 'out there' and generally followed by most dancers & dance organizers. Commonly referred to as the "Dress Code", the 'enforcement' of same varies widely, **so check with your local club or dance to determine IF there's a "dress code" & IF SO, what is it?** I'm sure that if I'm at all 'off base', I'll hear about it !!

What follows is excerpts taken from the CSRDS & Callerlab web sites :-

CSRDS - *The current dress code commonly agreed upon in Canada seems to be:*

- Ladies should wear a full-skirted dress or skirt and blouse. Knee length full circle skirts should be worn with a crinoline and pettipants. Mid-calf length prairie skirts should be full enough to use in skirt work. Underneath a prairie skirt ladies should wear an equal length petticoat or perhaps a crinoline. Usually pettipants are not necessary beneath a prairie skirt unless the skirt is full.

- Gentlemen should wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt accompanied by a neck decoration. Western style is preferred. Jeans are frowned upon

Callerlab has attempted to find a compromise position by designating three classes of dress code:

- **Traditional** (skirts with crinolines, prairie skirts, long pants and long sleeved shirts as now worn),
- **Proper** (the new proposal which includes short sleeved shirts and dress slacks and jeans for men and women),
- **Casual** (undefined but generally understood as tasteful and comfortable).

Callerlab has left the *designation of attire to be worn at dances in the hands of organizers of the dance and asked for a policy of tolerance. So, the code designation is back in the hands of the Society, Federations, Associations, Caller/Cuer organizations, and the Clubs.*

Answer 1b:

Prairie skirt is a skirt that is flared at the waistline and has one or two rows of ruffles at the hem. Originally worn by American women settlers traveling west, the style has been adapted for modern use to reflect

country appeal. The material used can vary widely and denim is commonly seen.

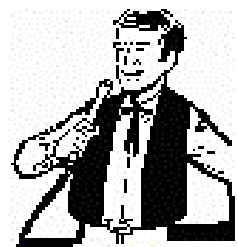
Question 2:

"What does it mean.... a 2+1 Dance ?"

Answer 2:

In many dances both Square Dancing & Round Dancing 'share' the same hall for dancing. When this is the case, the 'tips' alternate. If you start with 2 Square Dance tips followed by 1 Round dance, then it's referred to as "2+1". This is probably the most 'common' format that you'll encounter although there are others.

WHAT THE CALLER SEES !!



WOW !

This will be the last issue of Callers Corner for this dance season, so because we have a large number of new dancers this year in our area, I'd like to finish off by directing some comments to you, our newest dancers!

TO ALL NEW DANCERS - you've been taught well by your Callers & met loads of new friends & had a great time in the process, **but don't take the whole summer off** and forget what you've learned by the time Sept arrives! Dance as much as you can during the summer so you'll 'reinforce' your 'new-found' dancing skills. In the Ottawa area you'll be able to dance weekly for 12 weeks from May thru to end of July which only leaves about 6 weeks to the start of the new dance season. If you're travelling, find the closest square dance club & contact them to see when & where they're dancing. You won't regret it, you'll meet new friends & get in some more dancing !!

**ABOVE ALL, CONTINUE TO HAVE
FUN !!**