

CALLERS CORNER

A forum for the exchange of information
between Callers & Dancers

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Winter Already ?

It seems to me that the ink has hardly dried on the last edition of Square Time and it's time to get my fingers busy writing another CC. By the time you're reading this one we'll almost be finished the fall session and getting ready for our Christmas parties, and getting all our newest dancers 'ready' for their first big dance - Mississippi Squares *Halfway Dance* in early January! By that time they should have completed their Basic moves up to at least *Dive Thru* and will have the opportunity to dance with many other new dancers from all our clubs in the area!

What, no questions? I haven't received a new question from anyone in some time now - don't be shy!! If you've got something on your mind... just ask !! You can send them directly to me, either 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.

Keep FUN & Friendship
'front & center' at all times!

Geoff

ASK THE CALLER



RETRACTION TIME !!

In the last edition I published a list of 'do's & don'ts' entitled "Square Dance Etiquette". As mentioned in that column, the sources of the information provided was varied and I invited you to pass along anything that I may have missed. Well you did !!

Not so much what I "missed" but I had several dancers mention to me that one of the 'suggestions' is not quite "appropriate" given today's climate and personal sensitivities & allergies.

Specifically, the following item - (# 9 on the original list) :

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS #1 - Personal cleanliness is important in square dancing. Always shower or bathe before attending. Use your deodorant, cologne or perfume and, don't forget to use something to sweeten your breath (mouth wash, chewing gum, etc.) Avoid eating garlic or other offenders before attending a dance.

The "intent" of this item is to remind everyone of the importance of personal cleanliness & that one should smell "sweet" , or "non-foul" when square dancing. In making reference to using " cologne or perfume" I was reminded that there are 'numerous' dancers that are either sensitive or allergic to strong perfumes etc. and that the use of same should be done in moderation versus 'liberal' or not at all. The whole point of course is that there's nothing worse than dancing close to someone who's not been considerate enough to get a shower before attending a dance. Key word is CONSIDERATE of others at all times - including how 'much' cologne/perfume that you use. OK?

Other than the above, other 'feedback' to me on the "Etiquette List" included "good reminder to all of us"!!.... Amen !!

WHAT THE CALLER SEES !!



Yellow Rock ?

Not long ago, I was asked "point blank" (including a very strong, glaring, angry stare) by a dancer that I just happened to be sharing a square with....

"Why does the Caller call Yellow Rock?... I HATE IT". Additional comments that followed included things such as:

- "many women don't like it, but we have to do it because the Caller called it"
- - "it can be so embarrassing"
- "that stuff is out of touch with today's reality"
- "ok with my partner (read=spouse) and some others, but not everyone"

Wow!!....so what do the rest of you think?

First, just a quick explanation of "Yellow Rock" for those that may not be familiar with it.

WHAT'S A "YELLOW ROCK?"



JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR A HUG".

Usually "directed" from the caller, it's a friendly greeting to a fellow square dancer! Entirely optional!!

I do call "Yellow Rock" on the odd occasion, but always preface it with "If you want to" - thinking that I'm giving dancers the 'option' to do, or not do? However, maybe that (option) is not the case ??

So, I would like to hear from you, the "Dance Community" out there as to "**What's YOUR Opinion of the use of Yellow Rock**"? Be honest & candid & let me know just what you think !! I'll collect the feedback & publish the results (no names) in a future column. This is YOUR chance to let us (Callers & Dancers) know what you think !

Front or Back?

A message to all NEW Dancers !

Do you take the front seat or the back seat at Church? How about on the bus ?

What about the Square Dance floor? Do you square up at the front of the hall or the back? And why ?? Do you want to 'hide' from the Caller so your mistakes can't be seen? Are you concerned that your Caller may see you 'goof'? Are you hearing the calls clearly ?

DON'T BE SHY !!

New Dancers should square up at the front of the hall, right where the Caller can see you easily and you can hear best. After all that's what we're here for, to help you learn all those new moves, complete with a new language! Mistakes are part of learning (& part of the fun) & if the Caller readily sees that someone is having difficulties, then corrective action can be immediate - whether it's a review for everyone or a 'one-on-one' after the tip. Regardless, if you're at the back of the hall, the Caller may not see your difficulty as quickly, so you may struggle with a particular move longer.

So, do yourself a favour & square up at the front of the hall ! Be the first on the floor & you'll get a choice spot !! You won't be sorry !

Oh, yes... and SMILE often !!

Until next time !