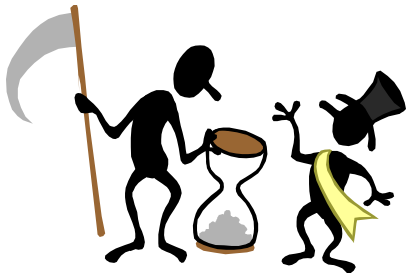


CALLERS CORNER

A forum for the exchange of information
between Callers & Dancers

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Jan 2004

A NEAR

Here we are already half way through another dancer season! Time really does march on doesn't it, and there's not a darn thing we can do about it but enjoy the journey that we're on! But we dancers are a lucky lot as we don't sit around watching life go by, we get out there, have FUN and enjoy each day. I hope 2003 was very good to all of you and that 2004 continues to be the same. We've got lots of opportunities to dance & dance often, so let's take advantage of it and at the same time stay healthy & fit. Frosty Fling is 'happening' the same day that you pick up this edition of Square Time. This is for all our "newest" dancers, so be sure to get out there and support them, dance with them, encourage them, regardless of whether you dance Mainstream or C4A. **Never forget that you were once a beginner !!**

Questions? Not many folks!! Surely you must have some? 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.

Geoff

ASK THE CALLER



A question on TWIRLS has been asked, specifically "I get dizzy if my partner twirls me after a swing. How do I stop this?"

Let's first look at where Twirls are 'generally' used. After a partner Swing, there are two ending positions (a) Lady rolls off the man's right arm, blending smoothly for the next call or (b) Lady Twirls (to Promenade only), by man raising his left hand over the lady's head, holding lady's right hand loosely. She turns clockwise moving down the line of dance 3 steps into a Promenade position joining inside hands on the 4th step.

Many ladies enjoy twirling and encourage their partners to twirl them often. It adds style, grace & flair to the dance. However, many do not enjoy it & in some cases it's not healthy for them to do so (dizziness etc). Some may also be seen wearing "Do Not Swing" buttons. So **GENTS, pay attention** - not all ladies like/want to be twirled !

LADIES - to stop someone from twirling you, the simplest answer lies in 'how' the twirl is executed. To start a twirl, the man must raise your right hand with his left hand over your head first. If you stop this action, you stop the twirl. To do that, don't allow your right hand to be raised, simply 'push down' and that sends the 'silent' message "I don't want to be twirled". If necessary, include a simple & direct "I don't twirl" comment. You should only have to do this once.

GENTS - be aware of ALL ladies in your square and whether or not they like to twirl and if in doubt, ask! Generally, your "clue" should come early in the tip by watching the interaction of all ladies with their 'regular' partner. **Be considerate** and don't assume !

WHAT THE CALLER SEES !!



Palm or Box ?



CALLER says "4 Boys make a Right Hand Star" and the four boys step into the middle and with their right hands they make a star of some kind.?? Well, just what kind of 'star' they do make can & does vary - often it's a "contest" to see which wins out!

Generally when it comes to 'stars' etc, we don't have this problem with the Gals, so why is that ??

Well, "Stars" come in a number of 'flavours' such as Right/Left Hand stars; Star Promenades; 4 ladies Chain; Thar Family; etc. So, what is the correct hand positions for the various moves ? For illustration I'll only use moves in the Basic, Mainstream, Plus programs that involve "Stars".

Let's look at just 'what' is used 'when' and by whom?

Star Family: - For Right & Left Hand Stars, the inside hands should be joined in a "***Palm Star***" with the palms of the hands touching at about eye level - comfortable for the 'shortest' dancers. This applies to all dancers forming the stars regardless of gender.

Star Promenade :- Men's inside hands joined the same as in RH/LH Star - a "Palm Star"

4 Ladies Chain: - Ladies use the hands up "Palm Star"

Thar Family:- When the Men are in the center backing up (highest usage), their Right Hands will form a "***Packsaddle or Box***" star taking the wrist of the man in front of him. When the Ladies star, they will simply 'touch hands' in the center.

All 8 Spin the Top:- the 'star' portion uses the standard "Palm Star" - applies to both genders.

Teacup Chain :- the 'star' portion in the center also uses the standard 'Palm Star'

So, as you can see, it's pretty straight forward for the Ladies, you'll use a Palm Star. However, for the Gents, you need to 'be aware' of when you will use a "Palm Star" and when you use a "Box" Star.

Oh yes, remember guys, when using the "Box" star, unlike the picture shown above, you do NOT grab the wrist of the forearm, just rest easy on it !! Please !!

Closing Comment :-

In the last ST edition I asked :-

"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.

Well folks, I've only heard from a "handful" (ie: 5) of you and all of those were 'verbal' comments casually made to me. All said they did NOT like it, but that's only 5 of you.

What about the rest of you ?? No comments ??

Remember I said that this is **YOUR chance** to let us (Callers & Dancers) know what you think !

Let me have it !!

Until next time.....