

## CALLERS CORNER

A forum for the exchange of information  
between Callers & Dancers

Written by : Geoff Clarke



FALL 2004

Welcome !

An especially **big Welcome** to all the NEW DANCERS that have joined us this year for the first time! This is an exciting time for everyone, dancers & Callers alike as we greet new friends and meet 'old' friends and get our dancing legs back under us again !

**W**elcome back to all dancers returning again for another great year of dancing.

**W**elcome back to your regular Club Callers in the EOSARDA region! Yes, we're all back for another year, so again say a big hello to Paul Adams; Bob Cathcart; John Charman; Berry Chumbley; Brian Crawford; Doreen Donovan; Keith Hubbard; Graham Ingram; Pearl King; Alf Marin; Harold Moore; Winston Mount; Roger Moreau; Louis Seguin; Keith Watters; Wendy VanderMeulen and yours truly.

**A**s I have said previously, if you have any questions that you'd like to ask any of the Callers, then talk to your own Club Caller first. However, if you haven't had the time or opportunity, then you can send them directly to me, either by email at: [askthecaller@squaresandrounds.com](mailto: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.

*Don't be shy & have a great dance  
season !!*

*Geoff*



## ASK THE CALLER

As this is the first column in the new season AND, we have a great new bunch of 'new' dancers, I thought I'd 'repeat' something that I published some time ago that was in answer to the question.....

**“ How come I seem to be always rushing ... I don't seem to have enough time to complete everything ?”**

*To our NEW DANCERS, here's some things that probably haven't thought about and you need to consider :-*

1. Square Dancing is a **LEARNED SKILL** that does require practise! Try & get out and dance **MORE THAN ONCE PER WEEK!** You will learn faster & become more 'comfortable' if you dance more than one night per week. Why not visit one of the other clubs in the area – you won't regret it!
2. Dance **IN TIME with the MUSIC !** That means move your feet 'in time' with the music & execute the moves 'in time' with the music. You'll be amazed how much easier it is !
3. **ASK THE CALLER** if you're not sure about something. That's what he/she is there for !!
4. **RESPOND to the CALL** when you hear it !! **BE LISTENING AT ALL TIMES** and if you're not hearing the calls properly, then get into a square at the FRONT of the hall !
5. **FINISH THE MOVE** you're doing before trying to execute the next ! Caller will "stack" the calls, so don't 'stop' what you're doing now to do the 'next'.

6. **PROPER EXECUTION** of the moves means that you're "ON TIME" (in the right place at the right time) for the next call given. ON TIME, means executing the move with the correct number of beats of music. For example:-
- PROMENADES – keep them "tight" (Full Promenade is 16 beats)
  - SQUARE THRU's – CRISP turns are necessary (Square Thru 4 = 10 beats)
  - DOSADO – keep it 'tight' – (Dosado = 6-8 beats max)
  - SWING – swing ONCE unless told otherwise (Swing = 6 beats)
  - KEEP SQUARES "tight" – don't let them "breathe" too much !
  - KEEP LINES 'close' together – 6 steps apart (3 fwd-touch-3 back = 8 beats)
7. If Square **BREAKS DOWN?** – **DO SOMETHING** other than standing around wondering 'what happened' & 'who caused it'. (see the first issue of *Callers Corner* for more on this)
8. **HELP YOURSELF** by your *reviewing all the moves you've learned by going over them in your Basic/Mainstream book*, especially after you've just learned a 'new' one! Looking them over 'in advance' is ok, but it may be confusing to you.

WHAT THE  
CALLER  
SEES !!



## Message to all Experienced Dancers!

**GRAND SQUARE REQUIRES YOU TAKE 32 STEPS (beats) TO COMPLETE!**

Do you take the full 32 beats to do a Grand Square ?? or... do you cut corners ?? ... slide sideways going into the middle??. swing 1/2 way through??.

**We teach our New Dancers to take a full 32 beats,** to turn smartly on each 4<sup>th</sup> beat and to 'reverse' at the 16<sup>th</sup> beat point in the pattern. So, no wonder they're somewhat 'confused' when some of these 'other' moves are introduced into their squares by experienced dancers! Is it part of the move? Did I miss something? Did my caller not teach it? ... they do ask!

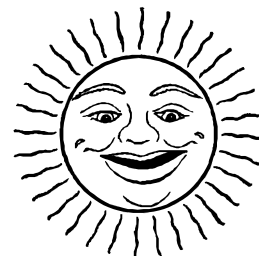
### **PROMENADE - Don't cut it short !!**

Generally you have up to 16 beats (steps) of music to get from 'where you are' to 'home'. Let's say you're 2 steps past home when you hear 'Promenade', then you'll use 14 of the available 16 to get there - no problem! But, if you're 6 steps from home & stop there, then you're standing doing nothing for 10 more beats of music. *What would you rather do, stand or dance?*

Now the 'general' rule of thumb is simply this - if you're 'more than half-way' (ie: 8 steps) from home, then Promenade home - if less, then 'keep going' - all the way around. There's one more caveat to consider, especially if your square has broken down since the last promenade and you 'may' not be in your normal position - If the #1 man stops at 'his home', then the rest of the square assumes whatever position you're now in - whether it's head or side!

*Folks - Never Forget that "you were once a beginner too !"*

**AND TO EVERYONE OUT THERE,  
REMEMBER TO SMILE, IT'S CONTAGEOUS !!**



Until next issue....

**Email:** [askthecaller@squaresandrounds.com](mailto:askthecaller@squaresandrounds.com)