

## CALLERS CORNER

A forum for the exchange of information  
between Callers & Dancers

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### HAPPY NEW YEAR !

By the time you read this, the second half of the season is well underway and with it lots of opportunities to dance & dance often. Why not help that new years resolution by dancing 'your feet off' to stay healthy & fit? There's lots of great dances coming up (*check out all the flyers in this issue & the dance calendar at the back*). - **Frosty Fling** has just happened - a dance for all our "newest" dancers and soon after that is the **Heart & Stroke** dance, another dance that our new dancers can attend. Hey, how are you new dancers doing? Be sure to get out there and support them, dance with them, encourage them, regardless of whether you dance MS or C3 **Never, forget that you were once a beginner !!**

**WELCOME BACK Keith Watters to the microphone !!** Keith has been off for a few months getting some 'parts repaired' and is now back calling regularly - good to have you back Keith !!

And, finally.....are you registered yet for Convention 2006 in Montreal this July? Why not?. For us in EOSARDA, It's just down the road'; the closest National convention for some time! We're registered, so why not join us there?

Questions, comments, etc. can be sent directly to me by email or by "snail mail" to the Square Time Editor, who'll pass it along.

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



## ASK THE CALLER

**Q:** From a NEW dancer comes the question of square dance attire -- "What's should I wear for square dancing?"

**A:** Well, there's more than one answer to this question, and "my" response may well elicit feedback from many who might disagree. However, here goes !!!!!

Sometimes referred to as the "Dress Code", just exactly what is *appropriate* for gals & guys to wear when square dancing can (& does) vary and has been the subject of considerable discussion in recent years.

In addressing the concerns being raised throughout the dance community, **CALLERLAB** (*an international organization of square dance callers, whose mission is to provide education and guidance to the leaders of our activity*) has approved three classes of attire; namely,

**'Traditional'; 'Proper'; 'Casual'.**

**"TRADITIONAL"** - **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 but need only a petticoat beneath unless very full (test by twirling in front of a mirror). **Gents** should wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt accompanied by a neck decoration. Western Style is preferred, however, blue jeans are sometimes frowned upon. Towels are useful in hot halls but are not required.

**"PROPER"** - 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 the organizers of the dance and asked for a policy of tolerance.

So, the 'dress code' designation is in the hands of the Society, Federations, Associations, Caller/Cuer organizations, and the Clubs.

To put it more simply, **your** Club determines what's the appropriate attire to wear at **your** Club. And, for those organizing a dance, (be it a club or association eg: EOSARDA or the National Convention), they determine the appropriate attire - however they should also publicize that 'requirement' (ie: traditional; proper or casual) so that there are no 'surprises' for attending dancers.

Heads up to dancers - dress requirements do vary from club to club & from area to area. If your club has a 'casual' dress code, that's great for there, but that may not be acceptable at another club, or at an Open dance. Check it out in advance & if there's no dress requirement indicated for a particular event, then my advice to you (to be on the safe side) is to assume it to be 'Traditional'.

And always remember that the only mandatory requirement is that all dancers wear non-marking soft soled shoes, **carried** into the dance hall & changed upon arrival and **not worn to the event**. "*Street Shoes*" are *not permitted*. We must protect the floors that we dance on!



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WHAT THE  
CALLER  
SEES !!

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## **A Couple of Pet Peeves of Mine!**

*I don't know if all Callers out there would agree with these comments or not - however here's a couple of things that personally 'bug' me !*

### **#1 - Putting the needle down, and then having to coax dancers to 'square up' !**

As soon as the music starts, **quickly** get on the floor and start forming squares. If the squares are being formed 'randomly', then the universal rule of square dancing is to join the VERY FIRST SQUARE you come to. It's considered rude, unfriendly and discourteous to pass by a forming square to look for "greener pastures". Which also means that you can't pick your corner, opposite, etc. You CAN pick your partner by asking someone to dance before you approach the square. If your square is not full, raise your hand with as many fingers extended as couples are needed

### **#2 - "Pre-arranged" squares & seeing dancers having to sit-out!**

**BE FRIENDLY !-** Do **not** arrange squares more than once in an evening. Dance with as many different dancers as possible each evening. Take the opportunity to get acquainted with others. Square dancing promotes friendliness as it offers endless opportunities for more friendships to develop. So, don't start re-arranging the square to fit in your friends or favourite dancers. Take a chance and dance with new people. And it is said : "*Thou shalt strive to dance in different squares, so that those with two left hands or less experience shalt benefit from **thy talent and thy help***".. **think about it !!**



Cheers ..... Geoff