

THE SQUARE &  
ROUND DANCE  
INSTRUCTORS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
ALBERTA

**SEPTEMBER, 2016**



*“ Autumn paints in colors that summer has never seen.”*



**The SRDIAA Newsletter**

September, 2016

Editor: Tom Gray

Cover image: Courtesy shutterstock.com

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Cover quote: Anonymous

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*If you find an error in this newsletter, please ignore it. It's there by mistake.*



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***NOTES (for those who print the newsletter):***

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**SRDIAA EXECUTIVE  
2015/2016 Season**

<b>President</b>	David Littlefair 322 Mapletree Way Strathmore AB T1P 1H9	403-934-5966
<b>Past President</b>	Lorne & Bernadette Anderson 128 Greenwood Drive Spruce Grove AB T7X 1X6	780-960-2911
<b>Vice-President</b>	Lorne & Barbara Smith 3111 107 Avenue Calgary AB T2W 2X6	403-251-5390
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<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Tom Gray 3 Camelot Avenue Leduc AB T9E 4M5	780-718-2733
<b>Directors</b>		
Calgary	Dave Symington	403-276-5706
Central	Henry Hughes	780-621-6238
Edmonton	Glen & Audrey Eliasson	780-454-6357
North	vacant	
South	Betty-Ann & Melvin Fieldberg	403-666-3929

\* \* \*

*“Let us read, and let us dance; these two amusements will never  
do any harm to the world.” —*

Voltaire

## S.R.D.I.A.A. MEMBERSHIP LIST

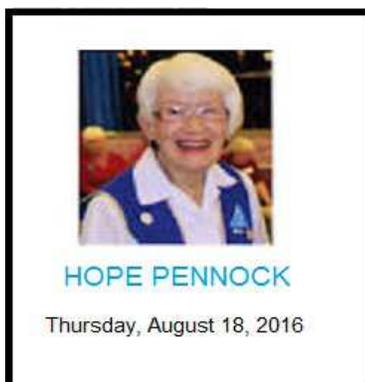
Members for 2015/16 as of Sept. 9, 2016

NAME & ADDRESS	PHONE, FAX & EMAIL	CATEGORIES COVERED
<b>Baudias, Ken &amp; Janet</b> 322, 11620 Elbow Drive SW Calgary, AB T2W 3L6	403-969-5982 <a href="mailto:Ken.baudais@gmail.com">Ken.baudais@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.kenbaudais.ca">www.kenbaudais.ca</a>	Mainstream
<b>Boyd, Joan &amp; Terry</b> Box 42 Round Hill, AB T0B 3Z0	780-679-0152 <a href="mailto:boydwt@hotmail.com">boydwt@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:pjboyd@shaw.ca">pjboyd@shaw.ca</a>	Mainstream Phase II
<b>Dales, Marvin &amp; Sharon</b> P.O. Box 75 Coleville, SK	306-965-2603 <a href="mailto:dalesmarvin@gmail.com">dalesmarvin@gmail.com</a>	Mainstream
<b>De Groot, Bill &amp; Karen</b> Box 323 Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0	780-584-2604 <a href="mailto:fitobsquared@aol.com">fitobsquared@aol.com</a>	Mainstream (paid for 2016/17)
<b>Demeule, Norm &amp; Loretta</b> RR#1, #46479 Rge Road 183 Ohaton, AB T0B 3P0	780-672-7247 <a href="mailto:Noretta@shaw.ca">Noretta@shaw.ca</a>	Mainstream Plus Phase II
<b>Dunn, Cliff &amp; McKee, Jane</b> 5424-58A St. Crescent Lacombe, AB T4L 1L7	403-782-4094 <a href="mailto:Cjdancinglacombe@yahoo.ca">Cjdancinglacombe@yahoo.ca</a>	Phase II Phase III
<b>Edwards, Ron &amp; Rosemary</b> Box 557 Vetran, AB T0C 2S0	403-575-3751 <a href="mailto:edwagn@vetrancable.net">edwagn@vetrancable.net</a>	Mainstream
<b>Eliasson, Glen &amp; Audrey</b> 12132-135A Avenue NW Edmonton. AB T5L 373	780-454-6357 <a href="mailto:gee4@telus.net">gee4@telus.net</a>	Mainstream Phase III
<b>Ellis, Alan &amp; Carola</b> 54 Aspenglen Crescent Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3J2	780-962-3012 <a href="mailto:areservices@telus.net">areservices@telus.net</a>	Mainstream
<b>Few, Murray &amp; Barbara</b> 6230 - 112A Street NW Edmonton. AB T6H 3K3	780-434-2000 <a href="mailto:mbfew@planet.eon.net">mbfew@planet.eon.net</a>	Mainstream to A2 Phase II
<b>Fieldberg, Betty Ann &amp; Melvin</b> Box 565 Etzkom, AB T0K 0W0	403-666-3929 <a href="mailto:bettodd@hotmail.com">bettodd@hotmail.com</a>	Mainstream
<b>Gervais, Laura</b> 3406 49 Avenue Lloydminster, SK S9V 0R5	306-825-2616 <a href="mailto:sundownsound2013@gmail.com">sundownsound2013@gmail.com</a>	Mainstream

<b>Gray, Tom &amp; Dawn</b> 3 Camelot Avenue Leduc AB T9E 4M5	780-718-2733 <a href="mailto:TomGrayCaller@shaw.ca">TomGrayCaller@shaw.ca</a>	Mainstream
<b>Heming, Palma</b> P.O. Box 322 Turner Valley, AB T0L 2A0	902-489-3970 <a href="mailto:palheming@gmail.com">palheming@gmail.com</a>	Mainstream Phase II
<b>Hilchie, William &amp; Quinn, Vicki</b> 86 Baxter Crescent Whitecourt, AB T7S 1E5	780-778-4639 <a href="mailto:skydiver@persona.ca">skydiver@persona.ca</a>	Mainstream
<b>Hughes, Henry</b> Box 16 Buck Creek, AB T0C 0S0	780-621-6238 <a href="mailto:HenryHughes66@gmail.com">HenryHughes66@gmail.com</a>	Mainstream
<b>Jeske, Larry</b> 44 Kendall Crescent Red Deer, AB T4P 3S5	403-36-7148 403-505-5044 (cell) <a href="mailto:jeskelarry@gmail.com">jeskelarry@gmail.com</a>	Mainstream
<b>Lees, Robert &amp; Marian</b> Box 1424 Estevan, SK S4A 2K9	306-634-8403 <a href="mailto:rlees@sasktel.net">rlees@sasktel.net</a>	Mainstream Phase II
<b>Littlefair, David &amp; Claudia</b> 322 Mapletree Way Strathmore, AB T1P 1H9	403-934-5966 <a href="mailto:dlittlefair@jkoverweel.com">dlittlefair@jkoverweel.com</a>	Mainstream Phase II
<b>Mahoney, Patricia</b> 136 Valencia Road NW Calgary, AB T3A 2B8	403-288-0116 <a href="mailto:patriciamsm46@gmail.com">patriciamsm46@gmail.com</a>	Phase V
<b>McCombs, Barrie &amp; Cormier, Carole</b> 3111 Utah Drive NW Calgary, AB T2N 3Z9	403-289-4227 <a href="mailto:bmccombs@ucalgary.ca">bmccombs@ucalgary.ca</a>	<b>Mainstream</b>
<b>McLafferty, Arlene</b> 1968-68 Street NW Edmonton, AB T6K 2J4	780469-2998 <a href="mailto:arlenemclafferty@gmail.com">arlenemclafferty@gmail.com</a>	Phase II Phase III
<b>Morgan, Ron &amp; Connie</b> P.O. Box 5461 Lacombe, AB T4L 1X2	403-396-1523 <a href="mailto:live2dance@xplornet.com">live2dance@xplornet.com</a>	Mainstream
<b>Murray, Ida &amp; Alex</b> 23 Howlett Avenue Red Deer, AB T4N 6K2	403-3478098 <a href="mailto:aimurray@telusplanet.net">aimurray@telusplanet.net</a>	Clogging
<b>Nelson, Mary &amp; Bruce</b> 15 Gale Avenue Sherwood Park AB. T8A 2K7	780-467-1141 <a href="mailto:mbnelson@shaw.ca">mbnelson@shaw.ca</a>	Phase IV to Phase VI
<b>Smith, Gary &amp; Eileen</b> 11 Park Drive Whitecourt, AB T7S 1H8	780-778-3214 <a href="mailto:garys@albertanewsprint.com">garys@albertanewsprint.com</a>	Mainstream Plus (paid for 2016/17)

<b>Smith, Kendall &amp; Kathy</b> 4715 - 40 Street Lloydminster, SK S9V 0C1	306-825-3770 (cell) 780-522-4896 <a href="mailto:thewoolyway@shaw.ca">thewoolyway@shaw.ca</a> <a href="mailto:thewoolyway@shaw.ca">thewoolyway@shaw.ca</a>	Mainstream
<b>Smith, Lorne &amp; Barb</b> 3111 - 107 Avenue SW Calgary, AB T2w 2X6	403-251-5390 <a href="mailto:l.b.smith@shaw.ca">l.b.smith@shaw.ca</a>	Mainstream - C1 Phase II - III
<b>Struik, Renziena</b> 259 - 2 Avenue NE Swift Current, SK S9H 2C9	306-778-2197 <a href="mailto:Renzienas135@gmail.com">Renzienas135@gmail.com</a>	Mainstream Phase II + Social Dance
<b>Symington, David &amp; Mariene</b> 7622 Fairmount Drive SE Calgary, AB T2H 0X7	403-276-5706 <a href="mailto:dmsymington@shaw.ca">dmsymington@shaw.ca</a>	Mainstream
<b>Tharme, Joan &amp; Byers John</b> 4235-87 Street NW Edmonton, AB T6K 1C3	780-463-9381 <a href="mailto:tharme@shaw.ca">tharme@shaw.ca</a>	<b>Clogging</b> Phase II - III
<b>Wood, Jean &amp; Bill</b> 5192 Hwy 97B Salmon Arm, BC V1E 2P7	250-833-9227 <a href="mailto:Wjilwood@telus.net">Wjilwood@telus.net</a>	Mainstream
<b>Wright, Valerie &amp; Lane</b> Box 84 Moose Jaw SK S6H 4N7	306-691-0579 <a href="mailto:star5@sasktel.net">star5@sasktel.net</a>	Mainstream
<b>Young, Delores</b> 9808 Mapes Road Vanderhoof, BC V0C 3J1	250-567-5780 <a href="mailto:youngdolores08@gmail.com">youngdolores08@gmail.com</a>	Phase II + Mainstream
<b>Zwierschke, Allan &amp; Olive</b> Box 114 Holden, AB T0B 2C0	780-688-2380 <a href="mailto:zwierchke@mcsnet.ca">zwierchke@mcsnet.ca</a>	Mainstream Plus (paid for 2016/17)

### *In Memoriam*



Hope Pennock, well-known Edmonton  
Clogging and Community Dance instructor

Tim Marriner of South Carolina,  
Callerlab accredited coach who co-led  
a recent SRDIAA Caller School

They will be missed.



*It's sad when someone you know becomes someone you knew. ~ Henry Rollins*

# MINUTES

S.R.D.I.A.A.

## Square & Round Dance Instructors Association of Alberta

May 29, 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Kerrywood Nature Centre,  
Red Deer, Alberta

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### 1. Call to Order

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Dave Littlefair called the meeting to order at 10:12 am, with 16 members present:

Boyd, Terry & Joan	Byers, John	Cliff Dunn
Gray, Tom	Henry Hughes	Jeske, Larry
Littlefair, Dave & Claudia	Mahoney, Patricia	Murray, Ida
Nelson, Bruce & Mary	Smith, Lorne & Barb	Symington, David
Tharme, Joan		

- Regrets received from Alan Ellis, Wayne Russell, Bill DeGroot, Gary Smith, Ken Baudais, Glen Eliasson, Betty Anne Fieldberg and John Tessari.

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### 2. Welcome to New Members - none.

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### 3. Additions to/Approval of Agenda

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Additions:

- 12.A. Caller School
- 12.B. 2017 Corrections to Membership List

**MOTION: Moved by Patricia Mahoney; seconded by Ida Murray; that the agenda be adopted as amended. Carried.**

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### 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting, January 24, 2016

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**MOTION: Moved by Claudia Littlefair; seconded by Mary Nelson; that the Minutes of the May 24, 2015 AGM be adopted as distributed in the January SRDIAA Newsletter. Carried.**

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### 5. Business Arising from the Minutes - none.

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### 6. Correspondence - none.

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### 7. Treasurer's Report - See Attachment #1 (1 Page)

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**MOTION: Moved by Joan Boyd; seconded by Lorne Smith; that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as**

**presented. Carried.**

NOTE: We have a current balance of \$480 less today's room deposit. This balance is expected to increase as 2016-17 membership fees are received.

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## 8. Area Reports

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### A. Edmonton - Glen & Audrey Eliasson

- The EDCIA continues to meet the first Sunday in May and the first Sunday in December. At the May meeting there was some discussion regarding changing the bylaws and how to have a quorum to complete necessary business. Bill & Karen DeGroot were moved from the student caller list to the accredited caller list. Five callers attended the workshop where Mike Sikorsky critiqued their calling using singers and patter. It was enjoyed by all in attendance. For your information the executive is:
  - President: Tom & Dawn Gray
  - Past President: Wayne & Agnes Russell
  - Vice President: Ken & Charmaine Sipe
  - Secretary: Bruce Nelson
  - Treasurer: Dave & Evelyn Patterson
  - Social Convener: Audrey Eliasson
  - Library Rounds: Arlene McLafferty
  - Library Clogging: Birgit Blizzard
  - Reporter: Barb Few
  - Federation Rep: Audrey & Glen Eliasson
  - Round Dance Council Coordinators: Mary & Bruce Nelson
  - SRDIAA Rep: Audrey & Glen Eliasson
  - Callerlab Rep: Murray Few
  - Clogging Council Liaison: Birgit Blizzard
  - CDP Council Chair: Jim & Sheila New
  - Sound Coordinator: Gary Winter

### B. Central - Henry Hughes/Cliff Dunn/Larry Jeske

- Olds graduated two new dancers; Red Deer 3 or 4 (?); Blackfalds – none. Rocky held an Open Dance in March and encouraged their new dancers to bring friends. As a result 2 ½ squares are signed up and pre-paid for the fall.
- Rounds in Rocky were notable by the consistency of attendance. They have a good number of new dancers, and quite a few have signed up for next fall.
- Rounds went well in Lacombe.
- In Innisfail, they had a group of 7 or 8 couples from January to April.

### C. Calgary

- We had 15+ squares at our Graduates Ball. This year 48 new square dancers completed the mainstream program. There were 26 new round dancers.
- We had 10+ squares at Mike Sikorsky's Plus Dance; and 15 squares at the Mainstream Dance.
- Our Summer Dances start up in June.
- The Calgary Callers executive for 2016-17 is:
  - President: Lorne & Barb Smith
  - Vice-President: Ken Baudais
  - Treasurer, C&D Rep, Library: Barrie McCombs
  - Secretary: Claudia Littlefair
  - SRDIAA Rep: David Symington
  - Federation Rep: Patricia Mahoney

- Ted & Myrna Kornak have stepped down from calling.
- Lorne Smith is holding a Caller's Seminar on the October 29 weekend. A Saturday night dance will be held featuring the callers and cuers in attendance at the seminar. Cost is \$25, with a maximum of 8 callers.

### C. South - Betty Ann Fieldberg

- Square dancing ended on April 19, 2016 for the summer break.
- We had just over 3 squares, with visitors from Lethbridge. At this point all of our dancers are planning to return in the fall when we commence.
- We have done some promoting and have a few people to contact in the fall. There are no special dances planned at this time for our zone.
- Baba's Rounds still have a venue in Zone 7, but are not holding dances at this time as there are not enough dancers.

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## 9. Area Reports

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### A. ASRDF - Ida Murray

- Ida missed the March Federation meeting and has not yet received the minutes.
- As of March 13, 2016 CSRDS Festival 2016 in Regina had received approximately 600 registrations. Their budget is based on 700 registrations.
- CSRDS Festival 2018 will be held in London, Ontario in July, 2018. Information and registration forms will be available at Festival 2016 in Regina.
- CSRDS Memberships for Alberta (updated in March, 2016) consists of one Federation, 10 Associations, 62 Clubs and 1648 Dancers for a total of 1721 memberships. For comparison, 2015 memberships totalled 1751.

### B. SRDIAA Newsletter - Tom Gray

- The second electronic edition was easier to do than the first because the template is set up. Future editions will have more color.
  - Do not send .pdf files for the newsletter. Files can be sent in: .docx, .txt, .doc, or .rtf format.
- Tom will look into archiving newsletters online, and the possibility of storing them on the Federation website.

### C. Callerlab & RoundALab - Tom Gray

- Electronic versions have been requested instead of hard copies.
- Tom will forward them to the membership via group email.
- Callerlab is holding a Mini-lab in Seattle in July, 2016. Next year's Convention will be held in Arizona.

### D. Alberta Convention - High River 2016

- Cut off for leaders to register was April 30, 2016. We have 30 callers and cuers.
- Friday's Trail-in Plus and Mainstream Dances, which is separate from Convention and hosted by Calgary & District, will be called by Jerry Jestin and Gary Winter. Cuer(s) to be determined.

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## 10. Old Business

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### A. SRDIAA Financial Viability

- Changes to the draft proposal were discussed, which will be presented at Federation's AGM in High River.

## **B. Autumn Dance, September 17**

- Ida Murray will try to book Gaetz United Church for the Alberta Autumn Dance on September 17.
- The Executive will choose the panel of callers and cuers, one of each from Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer Districts. A balance of experienced and less experienced leaders will be chosen.

**MOTION: Moved by David Symington; seconded by Patricia Mahoney; that the ticket price for the Autumn Dance be set at \$8/person. Carried.**

## **C. Youth Square Dance Camps - Tom Gray**

- On-line research shows that Youth Square Dance Camps are not currently being done. This would be a viable way to promote square dancing. Tom will put a presentation together on it and submit it to Federation.

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## **11. New Business**

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### **A. Election of Officers**

An election was not necessary. The 2016-17 executive are:

- President: Dave Littlefair
- Vice-President: Lorne Smith
- Secretary – Claudia Littlefair
- Treasurer – Joan Boyd

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## **12. Additions to the Agenda**

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### **A. Caller School 2017**

- Discussion tabled until September meeting when we know if our Association is viable.
- Tentative date is July 23 to 28, 2017.

### **B. Membership List Corrections**

- Cliff Dunn's phone number is: 403-782-4094.
- Alan Ellis' email is: [areservices@telus.net](mailto:areservices@telus.net).

These changes and some spelling corrections will appear in the membership list to be included in the fall, 2016 newsletter.

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**13. Next Meeting & Workshop: 10am - 4pm, Saturday, September 17 and 10am - Noon, Sunday, September 18, 2016, Kerrywood Nature Centre, Red Deer**

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## **14. Adjournment**

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**MOTION: Moved by Mary Nelson that the meeting be adjourned.** Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

NOTE: The newsletter received no financial information from the last meeting.

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*Have a look at the 11 ½ minute feature "[Dancing Keeps You Young](#)" from the BC Federation. Turn up the sound!*

**I CALLED IT!**  
**I'M IN TROUBLE!!**  
**NOW WHAT DO I DO?**

*SRDIAA Leader Workshop presented May 29 by Lorne Smith*



**I CALLED IT!**

1. What type of system was I using?
  - a. Reading
  - b. Modules
  - c. Zero/Equivalents
  - d. Memorized
  - e. Extemporaneous Sight
2. Do you have a back-up plan with your system if something happens and you get into trouble? Let's talk about your examples of back-up plans....
  - a. Examples: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
3. If you have no back-up plan then you are really in trouble!
4. What did I call that got me in trouble?
  - a. Wrong move for example: Pass Thru instead of Pass the Ocean
  - b. Missed a move or line from your written material.
  - c. Missed a move from your module/zero/equivalent/memorized sequence
  - d. Called a move that takes the dancers and/or **YOU** into an odd formation or set-up.



**I'M IN TROUBLE!!**

1. Don't panic and remain confident in what follows (it is not necessary to apologize)
2. Call material to keep them dancing until you regain your thoughts.
3. Try not to let them think you lost it.

**NOW WHAT DO I DO?**

1. Repeat the call you just did (sometimes 2 wrongs make a right)
2. Normalize the squares quickly by using simple moves.
3. Get back quickly to a recognizable and workable formation (again using simple calls).
4. Use your back-up plan.
5. Resolve by sight
6. Resolve with a known get-out
7. Fix the squares with a gimmick
8. Last resort -- square up the dancers (sometimes it is best to cut your losses!) because it could save lots of fixing time, the dancers will soon forget the mistake, and it prevents a long struggle to possibly fix the floor if you are not skilled enough to do so.
9. Lastly use some confidence building sequences for yourself and the dancers following the mix-up.



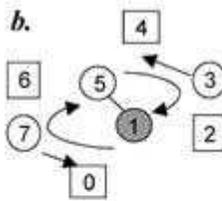
# CALLER CHOREO

From Paul Moore's Choreo Notes, Oct. 2015:

Sometimes, what goes around comes around, and if it's old enough, it looks new to today's dancers. Here's some interesting old material "gleefully stolen from the column that Walt Cole wrote for American Square Dance magazine over 45 years ago." On the left, in italics, the calls as originally written. On the right, in normal text, a translation to modern calls. Says Paul, "Be prepared for some unusual starting positions. But it all works. Trust Me!"

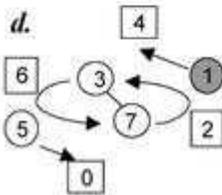
*Four ladies chain three quarters around  
Heads to the right and circle four  
Head gents break to a line of four  
Forward eight and back with you  
Spin the top across from you  
Spin chain thru, now swing thru  
Turn thru, left allemande...*

Four ladies chain three-quarters  
Heads lead to the right and circle to a line  
Lines forward and back  
Step to a tidal wave and spin the top – the girls move up (*to parallel waves*)  
Spin chain thru – girls work it  
Swing thru,  
Turn thru, Allemande left.



*One and three square thru  
Count four hands and when you do  
Split the outside, line up four  
Forward eight and back with you  
Swing thru, right and left thru  
Turn on around and pass thru  
Wheel and deal two by two  
Center four square thru  
Three quarters round  
Split the outside, line up four  
Forward eight and back with you  
Swing thru, right and left thru  
Turn on around and pass thru  
Wheel and deal two by two  
Center four square thru  
Three quarters round  
Left allemande*

Heads square thru four  
Split the outside two and separate around just one to lines  
Lines forward and back  
Step to a wave and swing thru,  
Right and left thru (out of waves)  
Lines pass thru and wheel and deal  
Centers square thru 3 hands and split the outsides  
Separate around just one to lines  
Lines forward and back and step to tidal wave  
Swing thru, right and left thru (out of waves)  
Lines pass thru, and wheel and deal  
Centers square thru 3  
Corner Allemande left.



And finally, here are some conversions Paul brings back from yesteryear:

## CONVERT ZERO BOX TO ZERO LINE:

- STAR THRU, RIGHT & LEFT THRU, DIXIE STYLE TO AN OCEAN WAVE, GIRLS CIRCULATE, MEN TRADE, STAR THRU, BEND THE LINE, ZERO LINE.
- SWING THRU, BOYS TRADE, BOYS CIRCULATE, BOYS RUN, WHEEL & DEAL, CIRCLE TO A LINE, ZERO LINE.
- TOUCH 1/4, SWING THRU, CENTERS RUN, WHEEL & DEAL (SAME SEX), STAR THRU, PROMENADE, GIRLS ROLL BACK ONE, PROMENADE, HEADS WHEEL AROUND, ZERO LINE.

# What's the future of "square dance costumes"?

Everybody has an opinion, and loves to share it! So let's look at some facts.

## *Dancers Surveyed in 2004 Gave Thumbs Down*

The Callerlab Research & Development Committee Report of their Demographic Survey (April 2004) noted that when asked what they like most about the activity, square dancers (n=498) rated "Costume" twelfth of 13 aspects. Just about DEAD LAST.

The survey also showed that the square dance "Costume" was the **FOURTH MOST DISLIKED ASPECT** of 13 (after Cliques, Politics, and Lack of Cooperation among dancers).

Really low on the Likes, pretty high on the Dislikes. This is what WE, as square dancers, thought of the costumes. Whether you personally like it or not doesn't change the facts of the survey: On the whole, square dancers surveyed didn't like the costume back then. Has anything changed in the last dozen years?

## *But On Occasion...*

Yet when asked what their clothing preference on specific occasions, a fair majority (63%) chose costumes for evening dances at festivals.

For all other occasions -- new dancer lessons, workshops, club nights, club workshops, festival workshops -- the most popular choice was to avoid the costume in favor of casual/peasant/C&W dress. And bear in mind that this was over a decade ago, and the trend to casual has continued since then.

## *The Public Perception*

That's what square dancers think of the costume. What about the general public? Callerlab's RPM Ad-Hoc Committee Square Dance Marketing Plan (2004) notes that people consider the activity to be "out of date, country-oriented, for hicks and hillbillies, using old-fashioned music and patronized by senior citizens in fluffy dresses with big hair, big belts and RV's." This image is boosted by the old Bugs Bunny cartoon, "Hillbilly Bunny" where a fiddling Bugs calls rhyming couplets to a couple of old farmer-types. Love it!

## *Just the Facts, Ma'am*

1. Most square dancers surveyed in 2003/4 didn't like the costume on the whole.
2. Non-dancers perceive it as old-fashioned, part of an activity for hicks and hill-billies (and seniors).

***Given these facts about the square dance costume, why do we insist on continuing with it?***



*Page from a 1950s Catalog -- Looks like square dance clothes to me! (Except few of us are that skinny... :)*

## KEEP THE COSTUME!

Here are some arguments *in favour* of The Outfit. Maybe you can add more.



1. It serves as an identifier. “I see by your outfit that you're a square dancer.” It serves the same purpose as gang colors or a team uniform, indicating membership in a cohesive group.
2. It acts as a form of advertising. Since square dance attire hasn't changed in half a century, many people recognize it and ask about the activity. (I've also been asked, “Are you guys going to a costume party?”)
3. It provides a way of “dressing up”. Perhaps this mostly applies to seniors, as the rest of western society is increasingly casual.
4. It makes it easy for the ladies to dress for a 50s party. Put a poodle on one of your plainer skirts...
5. It adds color and flair to the activity, especially in shows and performances (but not necessarily demonstrations intended for crowd involvement)
6. It is a visual link to the history of the activity (since WWII)

## ROUNDS OF THE QUARTER

*It appears that our cuers either get these dances direct from Roundalab, or can readily access them at the [ROQ page](#), so they will no longer be reported in the newsletter.*

CALLING ALL CUERS AND CLOGGERS AND OTHERS -- The newsletter is pretty heavy on calling. Please let the editor know what you would like to see in the newsletter. Feel free to submit material!

## EVENTS

Sep 17, 2016 - SRDIAA Autumn Dance, Gaetz United Church, Red Deer

Oct 16, 2016 - Red Deer 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance, Red Deer. Ctrl-click for [information](#).

Oct 21-23, 2016 - SK Federation Harvest Festival, Swift Current. Ctrl-click [here for poster](#).

Oct 29-30, 2016 - Callers Seminar - Calgary. Contact [Lorne Smith](#) for info.

Nov 4-6, 2016 - SK Federation Weekend, Lloydminster. [Allan Zwierschke](#) may have info.

May 26-28, 2017 - Cyprus Funstitute, Cyprus Hills, SK. [Click for poster](#).

Jun 17-21, 2017 - Roundalab Convention - Cincinnati, OH. [Registration Form](#), or register [online](#).

Jul 6-8, 2017 - Region 2 Festival, Cloverdale, B.C. Check their [web](#) site for details.

Apr 10-12, 2017 - Callerlab Convention, Mesa AZ. Click [Convention Registration](#) to register.

Jun 15-17, 2017 - Danceland, Watrous, SK - Poster is [here](#).

Jul 23-28, 2017 - SRDIAA Caller School (Tentative)

Jul 19-21, 2018 - CSRDS Convention, London ON. [Registrations](#) now open.

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Remember, you can click on any “hot link” (underlined blue text) to send email to that address, or to open that web site. It's no longer necessary to include a poster or festival application form in the newsletter because you can access them directly from the Internet.

# How to Teach a Great Group Class

By Diane Jarmolow, founder/director of the [Ballroom Dance Teachers College](#)  
Used with permission

**There's an art to teaching a great group class. However, there's also a tried and true formula** that makes a group class successful. You might hear people say "Jane is a fantastic group class teacher! I learn a lot and have so much fun. Most teachers don't have a clear system like Jane does!"

While I don't have the space here to talk about all the procedures in this winning group class formula, I do want to give you some of the **key elements to earn you a reputation as a "Fantastic Group Class Teacher"**.



Here's a list of the most important things you can do to have your group classes go well. **Can you find the two that *don't* belong?**

1. Be on time
2. Be professionally dressed (based on the dance you are teaching)
3. Have your music ready
4. Warmly welcome your class and let them know about the dance they will be learning
5. Introduce your assistant or co-teacher
6. Demonstrate the figures you are going to teach
7. Play music at a slower tempo than standard, adjusting to the correct tempo toward the end of the class
8. Rotate partners frequently and in an organized fashion
9. Have any extra Followers (or Leaders) distribute themselves between couples so they will be assured of having a partner on the next partner rotation
10. Fill in as necessary if a student is without a partner
11. Always teach new figures with students coupled up
12. Use humor to help people laugh and have fun
13. Never teach technique on the first week of class
14. Keep your eyes open and help people who seem frustrated, are having difficulty, or are getting passed over in partner rotation
15. Allow plenty of repetition with one figure before moving on to the next
16. Let students know about events at the studio, especially those relating to what they are learning

**Which did you choose as not belonging?** I believe #11 and #13 are incorrect.

**I've found that separating Leaders and Followers initially to teach a new figure is best.** This allows everyone to learn his or her part well before tackling the issues that come up when dancing with a partner. A student of mine once said, "Unencumbered by music and a partner, I can dance great!" Although knowing their part ahead of time sometimes results Followers anticipating or back leading, this can easily be addressed once partners start dancing together.

**As for technique, it's only difficult when explained in a complex way.** Teaching people to stand tall, or to observe that the heel hits the floor first when walking forward, helps new students feel more confident. I sometimes think we don't give our students enough credit. People are smart—just as they'd

anticipate being taught technique for their golf swing or tennis backhand during a sports lesson, our students expect to learn specifics about dancing correctly in a dance class.

**However, it's important not to spend too much time on technique.** A beginning group class should be fun and light. For easy, playful explanations and exercises to teach students how the body moves, check out [Move Like a Champion](#).

**I hope this article spurs you to take your group classes to new heights.** A few other ways to improve your group class teaching include making a checklist for yourself, asking your students for feedback, talking to your colleagues, and taking a video of yourself teaching. **You can find the entire formula for teaching a great group class in the book [Teach Like a Pro](#).**

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Check out the updated "CALLERLAB Square Dance [Knowledgebase](#)". This website contains a wealth of material that will help with recruitment, dancer development, caller development and more. "Winning Ways" is a compendium of ideas that have worked for someone, somewhere, and might be worth a try in your area. The slogan of the website is: "Sharing ideas and experiences for the betterment of square dancing".

*Square dance seems to be alive and well in Sweden, with lots of younger dancers. Check out "[Square Dance Song](#)" by singer Anna Jois (Anna Johansson) from the Swedish Square Dance Convention in Jönköping, 2015.*

The physical benefits of square dancing are impressive, to be sure, but don't discount the social payoff, says caller Jerry Reed of Rockledge, Florida.

"The primary benefit [of square dancing] is the social interaction between people," says Reed, who for 10 years was Executive Director\* of CALLERLAB, The International Association of Square Dance Callers....

"Most of the activities that people do these days are individual, such as golfing, tennis, and bowling," he says. "Square dancing is...unique in that it involves touching hands -- we turn, we swing, and that seems to bring us closer together."

And the touching in itself can be beneficial to health, according to studies conducted at the Touch Research Institute in Miami, which showed that regular touching can reduce stress and depression and enhance immune system function.

\*Jerry served as the CALLERLAB Executive Director from June 1999 thru June 2009. Taken from Jerry's [web site](#). No indication of when he wrote this or where it appeared in print.

