

# Reprint

## Guidelines for New Dancers

The following text is from *Tel-Star*, October 1995

1. Dance at other clubs. Your home club needs your support, and there should be a special place for the club where you learned to dance...but you are missing one of the great things about square dancing if you only dance with your home club. VISIT WITH OTHER CLUBS in the area from time to time, and when on trips. But, remember that YOU ARE A VISITOR. It is suggested that you call or write before visiting, as dancing schedules and locations are subject to change. This is important if you are traveling...or if adverse weather is expected, such as during the winter months or during "tornado or hurricane season".
2. Belong to a club. Clubs are needed to organize and establish a means of enjoying the fellowship of square dancing. To survive, they need an active membership where everyone helps. Volunteer...don't wait to be asked.
3. Dance to other callers. During lessons, you tuned into the caller who taught you, and you will always have a special place for him or her. Every caller has a different style...that is part of the fun.
4. Dance in the front of the hall. The tendency for the new dancer is to hide in the back of the hall, where he thinks the caller can't see his square break down. A good caller watches the whole floor...including the back squares. Don't be afraid to dance in the front square.
5. Dance with experienced dancers. Sometimes an outreached hand from a more experienced dancer is all your square needs to keep going. Everyone dancing today was a new dancer at one time, and can remember how it felt.
6. Touch hands after every move. Establish your position by touching hands after every move. If you're lost, at least you'll have company. As one caller I heard years ago say..."AT&T" – reach out and touch someone".
7. Keep Dancing. To use all the information you have learned, and to make it become second nature, it is important to practice, practice, practice.
8. Be aware of your level. Look for dances advertised at the level you know.
9. Stay at your level for awhile. The level you dance has nothing to do with how good a dancer you are. It has to do with how much time you are willing to devote to your hobby. You may never choose to move to another level, and that is fine. Don't make a choice until you have danced Mainstream for at least one full year, and don't let anyone rush you to go to a higher dance level!
10. Square dance for fun. The odds are pretty good that someone is going to make a mistake (even a caller makes one sometimes!). Don't worry about whose fault it was...it doesn't matter. Regroup, and keep smiling.
11. Finally...jump right up when the music starts. Get in the first open square, don't pass one up! Introduce yourself, smile, and have fun! Thank everyone when the tip is over.