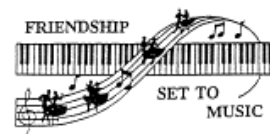


DANCERgram



Square and round dance news for the west coast of Florida

Editor: Penny Green (sqdnfan@gmail.com)
www.dancergram.com

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**This entire newsletter is also
 posted at www.dancergram.com**

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Live Lively-



Square Dance!



Westcoastsquareandrounddancer

Visit the
Past, Present, and Future
of Square Dancing in Florida
at
www.FloridaSquareDance.com

September 1, 2016 – Deadline for Members of the Florida Callers Association to Submit Profiles for Calling at the Florida State Convention. For info: lewisquare@yahoo.com or 561-731-3119.

September 5, 2016 - Deadline for submissions to the *Bow & Swing* October issue. Send to bowandswing@gmail.com.

September 7, 2016 - Deadline for Submissions to the October 2016 Issue of the Northeast Association's *The Grapevine*. For info: thegrapevinemag@hotmail.com.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

(from the collection of Ed Foote)

"A beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." ...B. B. King

"Ideas come from curiosity." ...Walt Disney

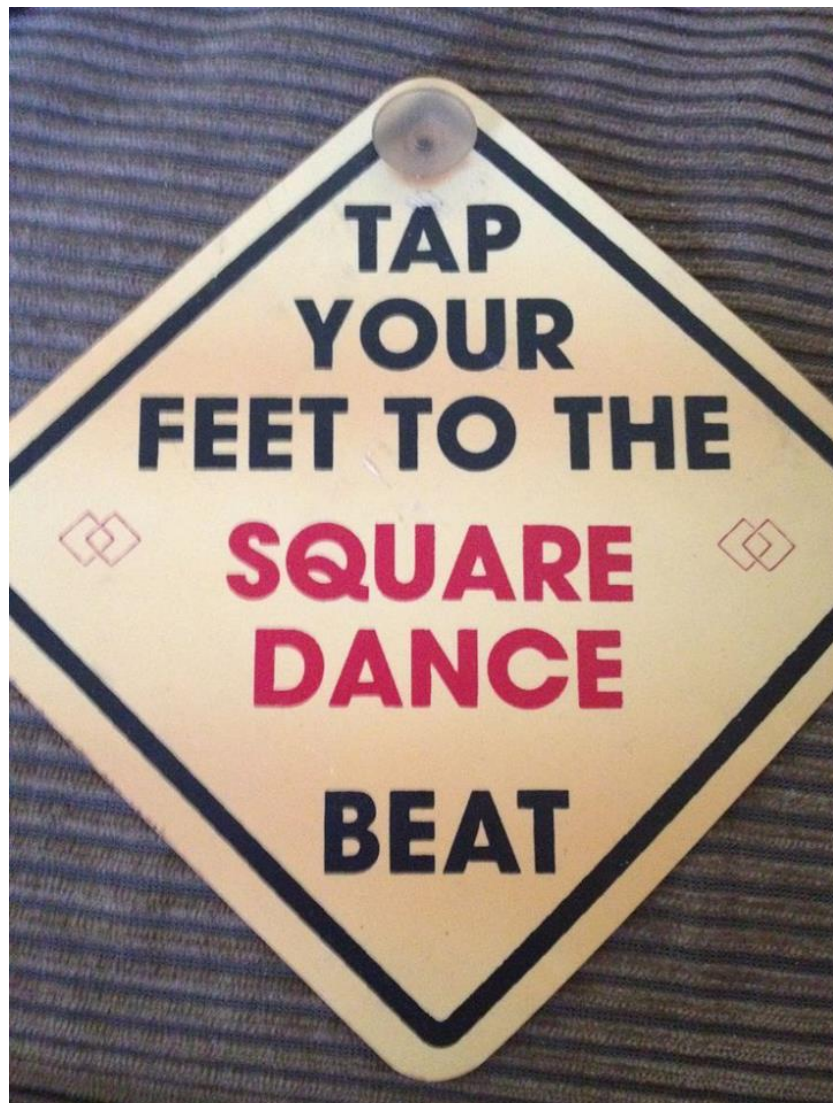
"When you can't change the direction of the wind, adjust your sails." ...H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

"I don't know what my calling is, but I want to be here for a bigger reason. I strive to be like the greatest people who have ever lived." ...Will Smith

"Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life." ...Sandra Carey

Health & Sympathy

The entries listed below are for callers, cuers, West Coast Association officers and representatives and other Florida associations, Federation officers and any others who are well known to the Florida square and round dance community. Listings for others can be found on the website (www.dancergram.com – Health & Sympathy).



How do I get in touch with....??

This contact list can also be found at

www.dancergram.com

June 27, 2016

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Your Source...

I carry ribbons and flyers for the following dances:

November 11 – 12, 2016 – **West Coast Association's Fall Fun Fest** – Bartow

March 24 – 25, 2017 – **Florida State Convention Ribbons, Buttons and Raffle Tickets**

West Coast Association membership badges and bars

West Coast Association Announces 2016-17 Officers

The West Coast Association held a meeting on Wednesday, August 17th at Strawberry Square. The officers for 2016-17 were announced as follows:

President: Flo Ormsbee
 Vice President: Ed Drexel
 Secretary: Terry Wetherby
 Treasurer: John & Lynne Scott

63rd FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION

PEN & GWEN'S TRAVELS CONTINUE

Chapter 4



“Come on you two. Time to rise and shine! I’ve made some Cheesy Muffin Puffs* you guys like so much” Gwen said with a big smile. Slowly Pen and Rico ambled over to the sand pile that Gwen had set up for breakfast. Gwen notice that Rico was not his usual cheery self and inquired “why” only to be told that he missed Kowalski and Skipper and yes, he even missed little

Private - even though he was usually a pain in the neck. After very little discussion it was decided they really should swim on to Madagascar if Pen and Gwen wanted to be in Florida by the March 24th** convention date while still taking time for a short visit with their cousins.

Soon Gwen heard Pen call out - “Everybody ready? Then let’s get started”. So they jumped into the Western Indian Ocean for the short swim up the coast to Madagascar. Upon arriving in the city of Manakara on the eastern side of Madagascar where their cousins lived, they were surprised to find not only Skipper, Kowalski and little Private there to greet them but the whole Colony. After a big evening feast of Crescent Pizza Stocking’s***, Dirt Cake*** and Party Punch*** everyone settled in for a good old catching up time of families and their adventures.



Gwen, while talking to her many cousins, did not see too many entrance ribbons being worn and asked the “why” question. Seems most of the penguins had not received word on how to purchase ribbons in advance. Being really flabbergasted, Gwen had Pen get registration forms**** from their traveling gear. She handed them out while explaining the “how-to” get advance entrance ribbons. She explained “just fill out the form**** then make their check for \$30.00 for each ribbon wanted, payable to the “63rd FSDC” and mail to Randy & Carol Poole, 1541 Lakeside Drive, DeLand, FL 32720. (No overseas postage needed, of course). Or if they want additional information they only had to call 386-734-5295 or e-mail: cpoole19@cfl.rr.com. “Carol’s the ready lady with the ready answers.” Gwen said.

Pen was talking to Kowalski and Skipper about the host hotel where he and Gwen would be staying at the convention, mentioning he already had made reservations as a surprise for Gwen. Skipper asked about the Imperial Swan Hotel & Suites to which Pen replied “Their rates are only \$59.00 plus tax per night but you must tell them you are with the square dancers. This price includes a free breakfast each morning and that each room has a microwave and refrigerator included. But you must hurry because none of the other hotels are lowering their prices for this square dancing weekend. Here’s the number to call for reservations: 863-647-3000, don’t delay too long AND we can use their pool, too!”

Rico borrowed Gwen's Fire HD 8 Tablet upon retiring to his designated spot on the beach and with a yawn he promised her he would purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win the one being given away by Emperor and Empress Penguin, at the Fall Fun Fest in Bartow, November 12th. "Several helper penguins have those yellow raffle tickets to sell" Gwen remarked. "Just look for one of them!"

Judy Anderson, Narrator

Footnotes:

*Recipe: Cheesy Muffin Puffs found page 64 "What Should I Bring To The Dance" Cook Book

**New Convention Dates March 24th and 25th, 2017

***Recipes: found on pages 200, 30, & 98

****Registration form can be found elsewhere in Bow & Swing

FYI: Emperor Ray and Empress Elsa Penguin (Huddleston) will be making appearances at the following weekend dances: Fall Fun Fest in Bartow, November 11th & 12th, West Coast Area and the Fall Festival in Jacksonville Beach, November 18th & 19th, North East Area. Come say "Hello" and help support the 2017 Florida State Convention.

CALLERLAB Viewpoints

By Mike Hogan

Perhaps you've heard about CALLERLAB'S program policy initiative, where callers are encouraged to experiment with new formats of square dancing and share their experiences. Those new formats could include a different set of calls as a new dancer program. They could include different teaching formats, different music, who knows? I wondered why, until I visited the showroom of one of my client's auto dealerships.

I went to my favorite Ford dealership last weekend. As usual, the salesman met me in the parking lot with a big smile and firm handshake. "Welcome! How can I put you into a brand new Ford today?" We went into the showroom where just inside the all-new Ford 500 was. It was black, with charcoal gray seats, a V-8 engine, and chrome wheel covers. The showroom held a total of 12 vehicles. All were black Ford 500s with grey interiors, V-8 engines, and chrome wheel covers. When we went out to the lot, I found another 342 black Ford 500; you got it; with gray interior, V-8 engine and chrome wheels. So, I asked the salesman if I had any other choices. His reply: "Well we can order one for you in brown, but it will take two months to get here."

Okay, I made this story up. The Ford Motor Company would have gone out of business decades ago if they only offered one product. To compete, they have to have a variety of vehicles that appeal to women and men of many ages, incomes, and stages in their lives. This is why they offer the Focus, the 500, and the all-new Fusion. They have the Freestar Mini Van, a variety of

SUVs and of course, the Mustang. Then there's their truck line, including the F-150, the best selling truck of all times!

Now let's talk about the square dance products that we offer folks who don't square dance. We have new dancer dances and exhibitions, but for the most part we offer Mainstream square dance lessons. Generally they are done on a different night and time, and at a different location than our club dance. We make the beginners commit to 20, 20 or even more lessons. We let them dress in jeans and t-shirts, only to require them to wear long sleeve shirts, dress pants or a square dance dress complete with a crinoline petticoat and petty pants after they graduate.

Research tells us that only 20% of the public has experienced modern western square dancing as an adult, so the public's perception of our product was derived from one of a few sources; what they were shown in grade school, what they've seen in the movies or media, or from seeing square dancers at a restaurant or some other public location. Few, and I suspect very few, have ever actually attended a dance. From a product standpoint, according to StarWorks (a national research firm), they see square dancing as "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". They don't see themselves participating in the activity. It's for these reasons that we need more options for non-dancers. If we want to appeal to different demographic groups, we need to consider offering a variety of square dance products.

One of the most difficult obstacles to us creating these products is that we are our own customer. WE LIKE SQUARE DANCING AS IT IS! For the most part, we are senior citizens. We like the music we use, we don't mind dancing in church basements, we accept that it takes a long time to learn, and we like dressing up like a cowboy or wearing puffy skirts. Unfortunately, the two clearest objections about square dancing that came out of the focus group research from StarWorks were the long commitment to learn the dance and requirements to conform to our dress code.

So why should we experiment with new music or new lesson formats? Why consider different programs or changing our rules? Why consider new locations to dance or club structures? It's simple, just as Ford will be out of business in short order if they don't continue to change their products, we too will be out of business if we don't have a product for the next general of square dancers.

Mike Hogan began calling in 1976 as a teenager. Today, Mike has a home club and teaches year round using the Multi-Cycle Program. Mike calls and travels primarily on the weekends for club dances, weekends, and festivals. During the week, Mike works as a Senior Account Manager for a local radio broadcasting company. Mike's home is in La Vista, Nebraska, where he and his wife, Denise, stay very busy raising two teenage children.

This article was written by Mike and run as a CALLERLAB Viewpoints article ten years ago in September 2006. We have seen several variations and different ways of teaching and bringing

people into our activity in the last ten years too. Square dancing has evolved a tremendous amount over the last 100 years. Let's not be resistant to changing our ways and doing things differently if what we're doing is not successful. We must allow this evolution to continue so that we can flourish.

Let's all take a long look at what we are currently doing to bring our dance to more people and preserve this amazing form of recreation for future generations. Let's be welcome to new ideas and forms of our activity that allows more people to join more times during the year. Our dance is just too much fun not to share!

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – September 2016

On the Record – Squares

Buddy Weaver

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Recently Pew Research found that a majority of American adults get their news from social media like Facebook or Twitter. Sixty-two percent of adults in the U.S. have “posts” as their source of facts and that is surprising when you consider how much bogus information is on social media. Who hasn't seen the post about “Mr. Roger's sweater” or “Jackie Chan's death while doing a stunt”? The stories are false. Research proves they are inaccurate, but it doesn't show the spread of the bogus story on social media. As the saying goes – “don't ruin a good story with facts”.

Like so many stories read on social media, we have statements of “fact” in square dancing that may or may not be true. Over the next few articles, I'm going to look at commonly held beliefs, ask you if it's true or false, and then reveal the research behind the story to determine if what we believe is factual. Spoiler alert, this may dispel your favorite square dance belief.

1. “Traditional square dance attire is the made-for-square dance dresses with yards of fabric, full petticoat, and pettipants”. True or false?

FALSE. Traditional square dance attire is the floor-length dress for the women and jeans with long-or-short sleeves for the men. Square dance dresses became mid-calf in the mid-fifties and what many people think is a traditional square dance dress came about in the early-sixties. Early forms were sometimes called a Squaw Dress.

The hemline of the traditional floor-length square dance dress started rising as round dancing became popular. An unconfirmed history is round dance students complained they couldn't see the woman's footwork beneath the instructor's floor-length dress of the time so a creative round dance instructor raised the hemline for teaching purposes. Whether the story is true or it was easier to dance more intricate actions in shorter dresses, the idea caught on with dancers everywhere and a million-dollar industry was

built on square dance dresses, petticoats, dress shirts, etc. By the turn-of-the century, that industry was all but gone.

2. "Square dance classes have always been sponsored by clubs". True or false?
FALSE. City parks departments, military recreation services, and large corporations originally sponsored square dance classes. In a post war America, square dancing was the perfect fit for adult recreation programs that were put on for city residents, active duty military new to an assignment, and employees on large campuses like General Dynamics. In one example – January 1946 a city park's supervisor was charged with bringing a caller from Texas to introduce square dancing in San Diego. 900 people showed up and had to be divided into two shifts of classes. In another example – February 1946 the commander of Pearl Harbor recognizes the value of square dancing to enlisted personnel new to the islands and commissions the first classes in Hawaii. Square dancing proves so popular that other bases start their own program and by the early sixties, almost every installation had their own square dance hall provided by the base – FREE OF CHARGE.
3. "Without clubs, square dancing would die". True or false?
TRUE. In the above example of 900 people getting into square dancing in San Diego, some of the new dancers became new callers and began square dance classes in their own cities. From new classes come new clubs.

Most every military base had a square dance program that was started by base recreation services. Many bases had more than one class, as officers were not allowed to dance with enlisted. From new classes came new clubs.

As square dancing moved into its modern form – no more routines, more calls, longer class times, organized dancer and caller associations – it no longer fit recreation department needs. The catalysts that created the square dance boom lost their best product to an organized modern western square dance movement (MWSD). Today, almost every square dance class is organized by an existing club, which ties the existence of dancing and the club together.

Something to consider: California was the first to experience the "boom period" of square dancing classes and clubs. Of the hundreds of clubs in hundreds of cities in the early fifties, one of them are here today, which means that square dancing should have died off completely. So why didn't it?" Because new classes continued to form (outside existing club sponsored classes) and from those new classes came new clubs. Thanks to an entrepreneurial spirit, countless classes and clubs formed in the years between the mid-forties and early-seventies. Why did this practice die in the past few decades?

4. "Square dancing will never see its boom years again". True or false?
TRUE AND FALSE. While it is impossible to know what the future holds, the fact is during square dancing's "boom years" (mid-forties to mid-fifties), square dancing bore

little resemblance to what it is today. Dances were routines and as routines go, most dancers knew what was coming next (See Paul Moore's articles). Lessons took six to ten weeks and it was easy to leave then come back to square dancing. What we know as square dancing (aka Modern Western Square Dancing) NEVER SAW THE "BOOM" PERIOD. Yes, there was growth as new classes formed in new areas that became new clubs, but MWSD never experienced thousands of people dancing in Central Park or Santa Monica.

Something else to consider. There is a correlation between the number of calls in our program and the number of dancers in our program. More calls – fewer dancers. Since implementing our dance programs in 1974, these programs have only grown in size and complexity. Also since 1974, these programs have only grown in size and complexity. Also since 1974, these programs have only grown in size and complexity. Also since 1974 the average attendance at a National Convention has gone from 17,000 to 4,000. Can we sharply cut our program size in the belief that we may again see growing levels of participation? Can we save this good story with facts?

Next month I will be taking on a hot potato. If you have any questions please send them to buddy@buddyweaver.com.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – September 2016

The Continuation Of Our Great Activity

For all of the people who are already in our great activity of square dancing this info is well known, but what we need to do is inform more people who have not yet had the opportunity of learning to square dance, so I am taking the opportunity of sharing this info. If you have friends who might like to square, or who have learned, but are not dancing at this time, please invite them out to a dance with you so that we can all know that square dancing is a great, healthy and inexpensive activity. For all the ones who are square dancing it is our duty to educate some new people on what fun we are having. Let me give you some facts that could make our square dancing activity grow. That is what we need, correct?

First of all, most, but not all of the square dance clubs only charge \$5 -6 admission fee. For that small charge you have at least two full hours of great square dancing, round dancing, and fellowship with some of the nicest people that you might ever come in contact with. The dance that you attend normally has snacks, finger foods and goodies of some kind to munch on – at no extra charge. Sound good so far?

Western style square dancing today is not like it was "back in the day". Modern music is used, music that you can sing along with, has a wonderful beat and makes you want to keep your fingers tapping on the table if you are not on the floor participating in the great fun. Alcohol is

not allowed at any square dance function and to my knowledge very few people ever go outside to “smoke”.

In the summertime most clubs go “casual” in dress which of course means that you can wear jeans or capris, short sleeve shirts and be comfy depending on the temperature. During the rest of the year square dance clothes are adorning the floors all over the place. Yes, some people think they are “expensive, old fashioned and out of style”, but hello you would really be surprised at those who love to dress up. To make matters even more simple there are places where you can buy gently used square dance clothing – including beautiful petticoats, or matching outfits for couples who love to dress up to help the caller keep up with who’s who in the square.

If you do not know WHERE to dance there is an electronic newsletter called the Dancergram.com, which is put out by someone who has been square dancing for many years and who fills her electronic newsletter with all kinds of important information on when and where to dance, plus articles that contain many things about square dancing. There is also another website known as “Where’s the Dance” indicating which clubs are dancing when and where. There is also the Florida Square and Round Dance Association website which is loaded with some great info.

If you have a family of four and the admission is \$6.00 per person you can spend \$24.00 and for at least two hours you can participate in a delightful night out with your family very inexpensively.

You ask, “Well what if I don’t how to square and round dance?” Refer to the website references given above to find that info out. So basically why not give it thought and find out just how much fun you can have for such a small amount of money. I guarantee you will not be disappointed once you find out how many wonderful friends you will make doing something very healthy for yourself.

There are also larger events such as conventions held in various areas which are once to three days in duration where you basically dance, dance, and dance some more. Of course dance of this type, i.e. cost more than an average weekly dance.

Square dancers are known to “love to eat out together” so generally after a dance at a great square dance – guess what – you all get together and share a meal somewhere and then get to know each other on a more personal level. It’s kind of hard to communicate in a square so your visiting comes later and you will be so surprised at how easy it is to become “addicted” to having a lot of fun for a small amount of money.

Please pass this info around and let’s see what happens to square dancing in our own particular area as well as all over the globe. Oh, by the way, we have a hall in our area known as Strawberry Square which is known as the square dancing capitol of the south and it is located right in Plant City, Florida.

We are always looking to encourage all ages to learn to square dance and lessons are given at different locations. We welcome anyone who really wants to have some good, clean family fun. Hope you are one of the ones who will copy and paste and share this message and help us grow square dancing in every area. We welcome homeschool groups, school age children from 7 years old and on up to as far as we can go. We still have people dancing well into their 80's and enjoying themselves while keeping healthy.

What do you say – will you copy and share this info?

Flo and Bob Ormsbee
West Coast Square and Round Dance Presidents 2016

P.S. The most fun “square dance call” is Yellow Rock. That is a HUG. They come with the dance – free of charge...Remember to Live Lively and Square Dance.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – September 2016

Breaking Records

By Corben Geis

May is usually the month when most of our favorite TV shows finish up for the season. I love television shows. I mean, I am a huge TV buff. I like contemporary shows and I really enjoy classic TV. I am sometimes referred to as “Cliff Clavin” from the old NBC sitcom ‘CHEERS, due to my vat of useless television history knowledge. Ha ha ha!

Believe it or not, I actually won two CBS related contests, five years ago, earning me the titles of the Ultimate Hawaii Five-O Fan and Parade Magazine’s CBS Uber Insider Fan. I do a segment at our local CBS affiliate called Tuesdays with Cory (please LIKE my Tuesday with Cory Facebook page). Thanks! You can see some fun video footage of me doing my commentary as well as posting with some TV stars.

Did you know there are a ton of your favorite shows that displayed square dancing at one time or another in their series run? Here are 30 I have researched, I am guessing there are more, somewhere out there. Let me know if you find any others. You can actually You Tube a lot of these episodes:

- Happy Days
- The Beverly Hillbillies
- Laverne & Shirley
- Hee Haw
- I Love Lucy (Tennessee Ernie Ford is the Caller)
- Little House On The Prairie

- The Muppet Show (Guest star James Coburn called the dance)
- The Waltons
- Capelli & Company (Kids Show – I was actually on that episode)
- Home Improvement (Al learns how to all through a Callers correspondence school)
- The Hogan Family (Willard Scott is decked out in square dance attire)
- The Wonder Years
- Saturday Night Live (Patrick Swayze guest stars and Phil Hartman is the Caller)
- Let's Go Square Dancing (Australian TV series which aired in 1960 on ABC)
- Lassie
- The Next Step (Canadian Family Channel)

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – September 2016

Moore Thoughts

From Paul Moore

Clarity In Square Dance Calling

We've all been in the position of having dancers complain, "I can't hear," or "I can't understand the caller." We know that some of the time that is a dancer problem, not a caller problem: that is, the dancer is not quite ready to listen and make sense of the commands. However, we can reduce the number of incidents of these complaints if we are clear.

Clarity is a result of a number of factors of which clear diction is only one. For example, the complaint of not being able to understand the caller usually comes early in the evening or at a festival where each caller calls only one tip. We can reduce the number of complaints by simply using choreography that guarantees success; but it doesn't have to be just "chicken plucker"; there is lots of good, smooth material that allows the dancers to get used to your voice, accent, and rhythm: your style.

If the complaints persist, then there are other factors to look to. Check your music/voice balance. If the dancers cannot hear you over the music, try turning the music volume down first, particularly if it is a small hall. Sometimes we get so loud that all the dancers can hear is noise and they can't decipher the commands. If turning the music down does not work, only then turn the voice up. This is where a partner can be invaluable by moving throughout the hall and checking the volume and balance. Work out a set of signals to communicate. In a large hall, getting the balance right is a little harder because what sounds very loud up front is barely getting to the back. If you have your partner check for you, great – or have another caller at the back of the hall. An easy check on the dancers in the back is watching to see if they are dancing through at least the easy stuff. At the same time, though, keep your eyes on the front squares to see signs of discomfort, hands over ears, wincing, whatever; they'll let you know if you got too loud.

As simple as it seems, using the music to emphasize calls is fundamental. If you look around, you will see many dancers who seem to have no sense that there is music playing. They just rush from one figure to the next. They are not dancing; they are simply solving geometric problems. The time it really becomes obvious is on a promenade. I think that when people begin square dancing, they have a desire to move to the beat of the music, and they naturally will. But we, as callers, take that away by being so involved in the choreography that we forget the dance. With some callers there are two things going on: music is playing and they are giving commands. The really good callers use the music and it is part of the command. These rhythmic callers tend to have a higher success rate with their dancers. I have watched at festivals and seen the difference: when the caller has good timing and rhythm, the dancers settle in and move smoothly to the music, and they are more likely to execute the commands correctly.

Other callers, using the same basic material, have dancers just going from one figure to another, but the dancers are not moving at the same rhythm, they are not in accord with each other, and therefore, cannot coordinate their dancing with each other. What happens in a Relay the Deucey if one dancer shuffles to the music while the others race? The caller can control that to some extent by being properly timed and rhythmic with the music.

The other thing that calling with the music does is put the emphasis on the calls. Use the downbeat of the music to point out the commands. If you give a command on the upbeat, the dancers are not really to hear it, and therefore will not do it. And just as the downbeat is much stronger than the upbeat, your commands should be louder and crisper than the filler. But there are still callers who will call, "right and left thru AND TURN THAT LADY." The filler should be there to give little verbal clues to what's going on and to help with your timing. The filler is not the dance. There are many good callers who do not use much filler at all so that the dancers are not receiving a lot of non-essential information. Also make sure that the filler is of the right length so that the dancers do not have to stop and start.

Good timing also helps the clarity. If the commands come just before dancers need to execute, they are ready to listen. Also, when they do not have to make constant adjustments in their dancing, they listen better. Do not clip at one point and then give standing time at another. They start looking around to see what's going on, and then they stop listening.

Something else that helps dancer listening is setting them up for tricky choreography. If the choreography is really bizarre, don't call it cold; set it up bit by bit; then the dancers can hear and decipher what you're calling. You can also give them verbal clues that perk up their ears, "be careful", "listen close", "when you're done", etc. Also those clues to formation help them hear what command to do from that formation.

Proper mike technique improves clarity. There is one caller I can think of who holds the mike about 4-6 inches away from his mouth and then dancers around while calling. His head goes from side to side, his arms are all over the place; and half the time his voice is not directed to the

mike when he gives a command he has a high incidence of squares breaking down. A lot of dancers think that he just calls such complex choreography that they just blew a call. Not really, they couldn't hear the simple stuff clearly and each person in the square tried to do what they thought he called. Plant that mike right on your chin and don't let it budget, or hold it directly front of your mouth. Also, each mike has its own personality; choose the mike that is appropriate for you. And then work on finding the right setting on your PA to get maximum clarity along with the most pleasant tone possible. If doing a guest tip, make the adjustments necessary.

So far we've looked at factors outside of just the caller's voice and enunciation. Obviously, the most important factor to being understood is saying the words clearly. To do that you most move your lips, tongue, and jaw. In acting classes, students exaggerate the movement of all the parts of the mouth to get clear speech. It works. Especially if you have a fast song with a lot of words, the words come clearer and easier if you exaggerate saying them. If you have a regional accent, that is fine: it can add character to your voice and presentation. Also, the accent is OK if you are home. But if you travel, people are used to other accents. Try working on what I all "TV accent." Most TV personalities have developed an accent that is not particularly recognizable as being from any part of the country. When out of your neighborhood, try for that neutral sound which will be more familiar to the dancers.

But all the mouth technique in the world is worth nothing if you can't get the sounds up to the mouth to form the words. You must support your singing with enough air. Push the air from the diaphragm. Proper singing technique helps with clarity also. Do not get caught in the trap of thinking that you sound better, that your tone is richer, if you sing in the throat. A number of bad things happen from singing in the throat: there is no way to enunciate clearly and so you sound like a mush mouth (and remember, it doesn't matter, really, how beautiful a sound you make if no one can understand what you said); you don't really sound better when you tighten up your throat because all the resonators are in the head; you restrict the flow of air and therefore cannot sing as loudly or with as great a range – and you put a tremendous strain on the vocal chords and run the risk of doing permanent damage to your voice. Get the tone forward into the front of the mouth where the lips, tongue and teeth can clearly form the words.

Even more basic to the whole process of singing is breath control. If there is not a controlled flow of air across the vocal chords there is no sound. Words are formed by shaping that flow of air. Make sure you have enough air in the lungs to carry you through the whole phrase. If you don't you'll run out of breath and not be able to make a sound, let alone form words clearly. Or you'll have to stop to take a breath, then you're timing is off and you'll come back in with a command at an awkward time when the dancers are not ready to hear.

To recap, clarity is dependent on a number of factors: dancer readiness to hear; timing and rhythm; mike technique; music/voice balance; breath control; and enunciation.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – September 2016

All Things Considered

By Ed Foote

Explode The Line: How To Dance It Smoothly

All Advanced dancers know the standard definition of this A-1 call: From lines facing out, the centers step forward as the ends slide together. Then all Quarter In, and right-hand pull by.

So if everyone knows the definition, why is the call danced so sloppily? Why are the ends and centers always bumping in to each other? Possible Reasons:

- 1) Centers forget to step forward
- 2) Centers do not step forward far enough
- 3) Ends mistakenly step forward

There is one styling hint that solves all of this and results in smooth dancing of the call. Upon hearing "Explode the Line," THE ENDS MUST ROCK BACKWARDS ½ STEP BEFORE DOING THE QUARTER IN.

This will completely clear the ends away from the centers, and thus enable the pull by to be done smoothly by everyone.

REMEMBER: ENDS ROCK BACKWARD ½ STEP BEFORE DOING THE QUARTER IN. Tell everyone you know, including callers who are teaching Advanced classes and workshops.

Pair Off: Understanding The Definition

Dancers think they know the definition of the A-1 call Pair Off, but many people do not. This is proven when Pair Off is called from facing lines and half the dancers face the wrong way. I see this happen all the time.

Why do dancers not know the definition of this call? Because most callers only call Pair Off from a square set. So dancers memorize that usage and never think about the true definition.

The definition is: Take the person you are facing and Face Out. In other words, TURN YOUR BACK ON THE CENTER OF THE SET.

That's it. Remember these words and you will never break down on Pair Off. TURN YOUR BACK ON THE CENTER OF THE SET.

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What's Happening This Week?

Week of August 22, 2016

All clubs, callers, and cuers are asked to provide the editor with new dance schedules on an annual basis, as well as any updates, changes, and cancellations as needed. Failure to do so will result in your listing being removed from this publication.

NOTE: Yellow highlighting is a change from last week's issue.

Monday (August 22) – *Temple Twirlers Birthday/Anniversary* – Oak Grove United Methodist Church, 2707 W. Waters Avenue (northeast corner of Habana Avenue), Tampa – ER 7:00 p.m., Mainstream/Plus/Rounds 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. – Caller: Robert Arias, Cuer: Charlie Lovelace. Casual attire. Dancers please use the entrance marked “Gage Hall” on the Habana Avenue side under the covered driveway. For info: bbkilk@verizon.net.

Tuesday (August 23) – *Buttons & Bows of Lakeland* – Magnolia Building, 702 E. Orange Street, Lakeland – Caller: Keith Stevens and Marty Vanwart; Cuer: Charlie Lovelace. Cost: Members \$6 – Guests \$7 - Early Rounds 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Mainstream/Plus/Rounds 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. – wood floors – hearing enhancement – casual attire acceptable. For info: sqdnxfan@gmail.com or 863-224-3393.

Suncoast Squares – King of Peace MCC Church, 3150 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg – Early Round 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Mainstream 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. – Plus 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. Caller/Cuer: Mike Cox. A GLBT Club – all are welcome (including the straight community) – casual attire. For info: www.suncoastsquares.com or suncoastsquares@gmail.com or mutschlerdan@yahoo.com or 678-656-2523.

Wednesday (August 24) – *Strawberry Square Fun Plus Dance* – Strawberry Square Dance Center, 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City - Caller: Marty Vanwart – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. For info: www.strawberrysquaredancing.com or 813-752-0491. If you are unable to reach the Dance Center, please call Bob and Barb Hancock 419-633-0610 or Cherylene Sorrells 770-825-6513. **See note above regarding floor.**

J & C Spinarounds Phase IV & V Workshop & Dance – Walter Fuller Recreation Center, 7891 26th Avenue N., St. Pete, FL – 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. – Cuers/Instructors: Jimmy and Carol Griffin. For info: 727-525-7809 or spinards@tampabay.rr.com or www.floridasquaredance.com/jcspin.

Chase-A-Rounds in Punta Gorda – South County Regional Park, 670 Cooper Street, Punta Gorda – Phase III Waltz Review - Cuer: Dick Chase – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. For info: 239-770-5257 or prentice0626@gmail.com.

Cultural Center Squares – Centennial Hall, 2280 Aaron Street, Rooms F & G, Port Charlotte, FL. Caller: Robert Arias; Cuers: Jennie Martin and Russ Collier. Workshop 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. alternating Mainstream and Plus. For info: Mary 941-380-5336 or Jennie 863-494-2749. For info: Mary 941-380-5336 or Jennie 863-494-2749.

Thursday (August 25) – **Snell's Bo's and Bells** – Hale Activity Center, 330 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin, FL – Caller/Cuer: Allen Snell – Workshop 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Mainstream/Plus/Rounds 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. - \$6 per person – casual attire. For info: 727-862-4842.

Shufflin' Squares - Lake Ashton Golf Club, 4141 Ashton Club Drive, Lake Wales, FL – alternating Mainstream and Plus 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Caller: Keith Stevens – square dance attire optional. For info: lanceandrita@yahoo.com.

Jacaranda Trace – 3600 William Penn Way, Venice - A-2 - 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Caller: Mike Cox. For info: 941-408-2627.

Citrus Squares – First United Methodist Church, 21501 W. Highway 40, Dunnellon, FL – Caller: Ellis Lindsey – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. For info: 352-465-2142 (H) – 352-419-2504 (C) – rickducharme@ymail.com.

Suncoast Squares A2 Dance and Workshop – King of Peace MCC Church, 3150 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Caller: Mike Cox. A GLBT Club – all are welcome (including the straight community) – casual attire. For info: www.suncoastsquares.com or suncoastsquares@gmail.com or beemerr90s@juno.com.

Promenade Squares – Senior Center, 7625 - 59th St. N., Pinellas Park – Early Rounds 7:15 - 7:45 p.m. Mainstream/Plus/Rounds 7:45 - 9:30 p.m. - caller: Bob Ormsbee, cuers: Jimmy and/or Carol Griffin. For info: dhua7@aol.com or 727-544-0227.

Friday (August 26) - **Strawberry Square Summer Program Plus/Advance Dance** Strawberry Square Dance Center, 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City – Caller: Keith Stevens - 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. For info: www.strawberrysquaredancing.com or 813-752-0491. If you are unable to reach the Dance Center, please call Bob and Barb Hancock 419-633-0610 or Cherylene Sorrells 770-825-6513. **See note above regarding floor.**

Saturday (August 27) – **Palace Promenaders** - Palace Square Dance Hall, 1627 N.E. Floridian Circle, Arcadia – Caller: Robert Arias; Cuer: Jennie Martin and Russ Collier – Dinner at 6:00 p.m. - Squares and Rounds 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. For info: Jennie 863-494-2749 or Mary 941-380-5336. Park in back of the building. For info: Jennie Martin 863-494-2749 or Mary Dow 941-380-5336.

Sunday (August 28) –

Monday (August 29) – **Temple Twirlers** – **NO DANCE** For info: bbkilk@verizon.net or <http://www.templetwirlers.com>.

Tuesday (August 30) – Suncoast Squares – King of Peace MCC Church, 3150 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg – Mainstream 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. – Plus 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. Caller/Cuer: Mike Cox. A GLBT Club – all are welcome (including the straight community) – casual attire. For info: www.suncoastsquares.com or suncoastsquares@gmail.com or mutschlerdan@yahoo.com or 678-656-2523.

West Coast Classes and Workshops

National Caller and Cuer Colleges

Please provide start date, start and ending time, level (Beginner, Mainstream, Plus, etc.), GPS address (with city) where class and/or workshop will be held, instructor's name, contact name, email address and phone number.

Please keep in mind that this information needs to be communicated out to new dancers! It's not a secret!

August 22, 2016

Shufflin' Squares Advance Workshop – Lake Ashton Golf Club, 4141 Ashton Club Drive, Lake Wales, FL – Caller: Keith Stevens – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. For info: lanceandrita@yahoo.com.

May 9, 2016 – **Summer Round Dance Workshop** – Herons Glen, North Ft. Myers – Phase II review and teaching Phase III – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Cuer/Instructor: Russ Collier. For info: 941-661-1920.

June 7, 2016 – **Strawberry Square Summer Square Dance Lessons** – Strawberry Square Dance Center, 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City – 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. – Callers/Instructors: Keith Stevens and Marty Vanwart. The lessons will be from the new CALLERLAB accelerated and condensed program that includes the more frequently called commands in the Mainstream list (this is different than “Basic 50”). It is designed to be a shorter and easier entrance program for new dancers. The program will last 10 weeks. Students who attend all 10 classes will receive five free dance coupons to attend regularly scheduled Strawberry Square Club dances on Wednesday nights. Following completion of this program Keith and Marty will continue teaching the rest of the commands in the same time slot until the Fall class starts on November 7th. For info: www.strawberrysquaredancing.com or 813-752-0491. If you are unable to reach the Dance Center, please call Cherylene Sorrells 770-825-6513. **NOTE: Please carry your dance shoes into the hall and wear them when walking on the dance floor so that foreign matter isn't brought on to the floor causing scratches marring of the new surface.**

June 8 – September 28, 2016 - **Linville Land Harbor Mountain Mixers A-2 Review** - Highway 221 between Pineola, NC and Linville, NC – Caller: Ron Libby (Land Harbor, NC) - 7:00 p.m. – 9:00p.m. For info: 828-898-8188 or www.mountainmixers.com.

September 22, 2016 – **Strawberry Square Phase 2 – 3 Class** - 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City, FL – Cues/Instructor: Jack and Nell Jenkins – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. - \$6 per person per session. For info: www.strawberrysquaredancing.com or 813-752-0491. If you are unable to reach the Dance Center, please call Jack and Nell Jenkins 828-508-3690.

September 24 – October 29, 2016 – **Strawberry Square Two-Step Classes** – Strawberry Square Dance Center, 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City – Cues/Instructors: Jack and Nell Jenkins (members of Roundalab and Round Dance Council of Florida; BMI & ASCAP licensed) – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. For info: 828-508-3690 (leave message if no answer).

September 25, 2016 – **Strawberry Square Choreographed Ballroom (Round Dancing) Beginners Class in Rumba and Cha Cha** – Strawberry Square Dance Center, 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City – Cues/Instructors: Jack and Nell Jenkins – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. - \$6 per person per session. For info: 828-508-3690 (cell – leave message if no answer) – BMI & ASCAP licensed.

October 6 – 10, 2016 – **Northeast Callers School** – Mill-a-round Dance Center, Manchester, New Hampshire – Callers/Instructors: Ken Ritucci (CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach), Norm Poisson; Special Guest Instructors: Steve Kopman (Tennessee), Bill Harrison (Maryland), and Walt Bull (Maine). Plenty of microphone time – professional assessment of your skills – understand what it takes to be a leader – full CALLERLAB curriculum – develop a calling career that is best for you. Whether you are presently calling or desire to be a caller, this school will help you with your calling career. Only \$400/student. Space is limited! Register today! For an application and more information, contact Ken Ritucci at 413-734-0591 or write kenritucci@aol.com – www.northeastcallersschool.com.

October 20, 2016 - **Strawberry Square Phase 4 Figure Teach/Dance** - 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City, FL – Cues/Instructor: Jack and Nell Jenkins – 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. - \$6 per person per session. For info: www.strawberrysquaredancing.com or 813-752-0491. If you are unable to reach the Dance Center, please call Jack and Nell Jenkins 828-508-3690.

October 22, 2016 - **Strawberry Square Phase 3 Dance w/Phase 4 Intro Teach** - 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City, FL – Cues/Instructor: Jack and Nell Jenkins – 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. - \$6 per person per session. For info: www.strawberrysquaredancing.com or 813-752-0491. If you are unable to reach the Dance Center, please call Jack and Nell Jenkins 828-508-3690.

November 5, 2016 – **Strawberry Square Phase 5 Figure Clinic/Dance** - 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City, FL – Cues/Instructor: Jack and Nell Jenkins – 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - \$6

per person per session. For info: www.strawberrysquaredancing.com or 813-752-0491. If you are unable to reach the Dance Center, please call Jack and Nell Jenkins 828-508-3690.

November 7, 2016 – **Strawberry Square Beginners Square Dance Class** – 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City, FL – Caller/Instructor: Marty Vanwart – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. For info: www.strawberrysquaredancing.com or 813-752-0491. If you are unable to reach the Dance Center, please call Cherylene Sorrells 770-825-6513.

November 7, 2016 – **Strawberry Square Plus Workshop** – 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City, FL – Caller/Instructor: Marty Vanwart – 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. For info: www.strawberrysquaredancing.com or 813-752-0491. If you are unable to reach the Dance Center, please call Cherylene Sorrells 770-825-6513.

February 3 – 18, 2017 – **Square/Round Dance Cruise – Floating Callers’ College** – Grand Princess sailing out of San Francisco to Hawaii – Callers: Scot and Erin Byars (Crown Records Recording Artist); Cuers: MaryAnn Callahan and Craig Cowan. Complete CALLERLAB curriculum plus vocal sessions. Eight days of instruction classes on at-sea days). Prices starting at \$2,114 (prices per person/double occupancy and include all dance fees, port taxes, and government fees. Your cruise may be tax deductible! If you are currently calling, you may be able to deduct both your caller’s school fees and your cruise fare from your federal income taxes! On student’s travel will be eligible for deduction. 4dance Academy does not guarantee any tax benefits; please verify these benefits with your tax professional. Instructor: Scot Byars (CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach). Tuition \$100 (in addition to the \$150 dance fee paid with cruise). Make check payable to 4dance Academy and mail to 2140 Byron Road, Sacramento, CA 95825 or visit www.gr8dancing.com to pay with PayPal. For more information, call Scot at 916-320-7207.

February 19, 2017 - **Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association (SCCA) Annual Clinic** - Strawberry Square Dance Center, 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City – Time TBD. You do not have to be a member of the Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association to attend. For info: ted.hughes@juno.com.

Demos/One-nighters

This is a new section for you to promote your demos and one-nighters. If you need dancers to help you out, please forward the information so it can be added here.

Looking Ahead...

February 25 – 26, 2017 – **Florida Federation Working Weekend** - Florida Federation Working Weekend – Comfort Inn & Suites, 626 Lee Road, Orlando, FL - 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be committee meetings on History; Public Awareness, Publicity, Preservation, and Education; Showcase of Ideas; Association Presidents and Insurance; and State Convention Procedures. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. For info: dennistaylor5426@att.net or 321-453-3438.

February 25, 2017 – **2018 Florida State Convention Benefit Dance** – Whirl & Twirl, 6949 Venture Circle, Orlando, FL – Details to be announced. This dance is held in conjunction with the Florida Federation Working Weekend. ALL square and round dancers are welcome. For info: lewiswasserman@gmail.com or lindawasserman0@gmail.com.

Links

Websites

<http://floridasquaredance.com/>

https://www.facebook.com/#!/home.php?sk=group_149454955123658&ap=1 (Florida Federation's Facebook page)

Publications

www.flwestcoastdancer.com (West Coast Dancer)

<http://newsquaremusic.com/sioindex.html> (Sets in Order)

Associations/Organizations

www.flwestcoastdancer.com (West Coast Dancer)

<http://floridasquaredance.com/westcoast/index.html> (West Coast Assn.)

<http://www.floridasquaredance.com/rdc/> (Round Dance Council of Florida)

<http://www.you2candance.com> (square dance marketing)

<http://scafl.com>. (Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association)

<http://www.flcallersassoc.org/> (Florida Callers Association)

<http://www.usda.org/> (United Square Dancers of America)

www.iagsdc.org (International Assn. of Gay Square Dance Clubs)

<http://www.callerlab.org> (CALLERLAB)

<http://www.americancallers.com> (American Callers Assn.)

<http://www.roundalab.org/> (ROUNDALAB)

<http://ssdusa.org> (Single Square Dancers USA[®])

<http://www.nsdca.org> (National Square Dance Campers)

<http://www.arts-dance.org> (Alliance of Round, Traditional and Square Dance [ARTS])

<http://www.61stnsdc.com> 60th National Square Dance Convention – Spokane, WA

<http://www.nsddirectory.com/> (National Square Dance Directory - information and contacts for clubs in the U.S., Canada and around the world)

Vendors

<http://virginiaswesternwear.com/> (Virginia's Western Wear & Square Dance Shop, Mascotte, FL)

<http://www.jlvinyl.com/SQUARE---ROUND-DANCING.html> (vinyl decals)

www.travelinghoedowners.com (Square Dance DVDs – Both Instructional and Dance)

www.suziegcreations.com (Suzie Q Creations)

<http://www.aronssquaredanceshopandpatterns.com/> (Aron's Square Dance and Western Wear Shop)

<http://www.calyco.com/> (CaLyCo Crossing - a full line square dance shop)

<http://www.tictactoes.com/> (Tic Tac Toes - shoe vendor)

www.sheplers.com (Sheplers - the world's largest western stores and catalog)

www.PerfectPetticoats.com (Perfect Petticoats)

<http://www.grandsquare07.com> (Grande Square.com – square dance clothes and accessories)

Square Dance Halls

www.Strawberrysquaredancing.com (Strawberry Square)

Callers/Cuers

<http://www.rodbarngrover.com> (Rod Barngrover)

<http://www.mike-gormley.com> (Mike Gormley)

<http://www.samdunn.net/> (Sam Dunn)

<http://www.floridasquaredance.com/jcspin/> (Jimmy and Carol Griffin)

www.keithstevens.com (Keith Stevens)

Miscellaneous

<http://LiveLivelySquareDance.com> (New square/round dance logo)

<http://www.dosado.com/cgi-bin/lib/shop-wrapper.pl?page=rdpubs&shop=dosado&cart=3901977.2052><http://www.squaredance.com> (round dance publications)
[radionetwork.com](http://www.radionetwork.com) (square dance radio network)

This E-Newsletter is published by a square and round dancer concerned about the preservation of our dance activity. This is not a publication of the West Coast Square and Round Dancers' Association, Inc. The target audience is the dancers in the West Coast area of the state of Florida and contains dance information for the upcoming week in this area as well as major dances around the state and nation, and any other information of interest to the dancers. It is published weekly with addendums as needed. New information each week is highlighted. Permission is given to forward this newsletter to your membership or others interested in receiving a copy or to provide printed copies to your members and visitors to your club. It is also available on the West Coast page of the Federation Website at www.floridasquaredance.com. If you would like a copy emailed to you or would like your club information added, please contact the editor at sgdncfan@gmail.com. Please continue to support the *West Coast Dancer*, a publication of the West Coast Square and Round Dancers' Association, which is published bimonthly and is provided free of charge for all dancers. For circulation, listings, club news, ads and articles, contact Ed Henning at 813-659-4787 or evhenning99@gmail.com.