

DANCERgram

February 2021



THIS &
THAT

... for the latest news in the square and round dance community.

This publication is a sub-set of the *DANCERgram*, which provides Square and Round Dance news for the West Coast of Florida AND is the official Newsletter of the West Coast Square & Round Dancers Association (formerly the *West Coast Dancer*).

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West Coast Association

President's Message:



Things with square and round dancing are pretty much the same on the west coast of Florida.

We have a few clubs dancing, but not very many. The dances currently open are

- Temple Twirlers (Tampa)
- Strawberry Square (Plant City)
- Snell's Bo's & Bells (Dunedin)
- R&R Gators (Port Charlotte)
- Harmony Hoedowners (Avon Park) is now dancing two days a week
- Crystal Lake Squares (Wauchula).
- Judy Barnhill is cueing two virtual dances (Phases 2 -3 one night and Phases 3 – 4 on another night. She is also teaching waltz virtually.

Strawberry Square attempted a beginners class but only had one person show up, so the class was canceled.

Social dancing is just about every Saturday night at Strawberry Square. DJ Ken Miller sends an email each week announcing the dance. He requires registration and limits the capacity to 60 dancers.

Everyone was looking forward to the Grand Square International Florida Winter Festival scheduled for February 12 – 13, 2021; however, they recently decided to reschedule the dance to February 4 – 5, 2022. Tony Oxendine, Jack Pladdys, Ron Barngrover will be calling, and Earle Collins will be cueing.

We are still planning to hold our state convention in 2022 with the same theme and location as the 2021 convention.

For current dance information on the west coast of Florida, check out www.dancergram.com. If you can't find the information you are looking for, just contact us, and we'll find it for you!

Penny Geen
President

Zoom Round Dancing

Rounds on Zoom

The Good news is that our Round Dancers are having the opportunity to dance in spite of Covid-19. In an effort to keep our dancers socially connected and dancing, Dwayne and I have offered the Round Dance experience by way of Zoom on the Internet. Zoom was a new experience for us as well as many of our dancers. For the most part, it has worked well with an occasional sound problem, which is resolved fairly quickly.

We started in June with an evening session of easy Rounds from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and then with a session on Sunday evening of more advanced dancing. Our dancers “tune in” from various part of the country, including Ohio, New Jersey, Indiana, New York, Iowa, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee, So, whether it's a cleared out living room, garage, patio, or basement, round dancers are dancing away to some of their favorite songs. Not only do they get to dance, but they can see and visit with each other during the dance breaks. No, it's not the same as being on a big dance floor, but for now, it's what we've got. Each couple or dancer has a mini screen of them that is projected on the computer screen. There may be 20 or more of these projected

on the screen at the same time so that you can view all the dancers at the same time.

If you would like to check out our Zoom dances, just e-mail Judy at judymassey_rn@yahoo.com, and she will gladly send you an invite with a link to go on to Zoom. You will also need to download the Zoom app on your computer, phone, or I-pad,

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Florida Federation

President's Message



I hope you had a great holiday. And now that we are into the New Year let's hope that it's certainly better than the last. Let's look forward to 2021 as being GREAT!

We are certainly hoping some venues open up as the month goes forward. Here in NE, we have two clubs dancing. In Jacksonville, we have the Moose Promenaders, and in Lake City, we have the Dixie Dancers. From what I've been told, more clubs are beginning to dance throughout the state.

I do want to remind you again that the Florida Federation or any association or Square Dancer will never ask you to donate gift cards to any organization for any reason. A past member of the NE and also a Caller receive an Email requesting some gift cards to donate to the veterans association. This is definitely a SCAM.

After much thought and consideration, the Florida Federation, Florida callers association, and Florida cures association had made the hard decision to cancel the 2021 Florida State square and round dance convention. Some might say this was an unwise decision, or they may say it's the right decision. I'm sure none of us really know. We can only make what we feel is a safe decision. Hopefully, very soon, we will be able to be safe from the COVID-19. Richard

and Carol Douget have agreed to be the 2022 state convention chairman. Everything will remain the same except the date. Ribbons already purchased will be honored for 2022.

I would like to thank you, our square and round dancers, for all the work and support you give to our activity. I look forward to seeing you at the 67th Florida state square and round dance convention in 2022.

Linda Tester, President

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – January 2021



LIGHTHOUSES #18 thru #23
East Washerwoman Light, Sombrero Key Lighthouse
Looe Key Light & American Shoal Lighthouse
Pelican Shoal Light, Sand Key Lighthouse

Our venue, the canceled/postponed Florida State Convention, is still in limbo. Linda Tester, President of the Florida Federation, now has her committee inquiring about the status of the Convention Center and the possibility of still holding our 67th Florida State Convention the weekend of March 4 & 5, 2022. So keep watching for current updated info in all our publications around the State. Hopefully, our State Convention will happen – as Tennessee Ernie Ford would say: “The good Lord willin’ and the creek don’t rise.”

#18 East Washerwoman Light: There are two scenarios as to how this light got its name.

One being that its agitation of small waves on the rocks looked like those of a washing machine. The other is that clothes from a shipwrecked vessel washed up on the rocks. Not much is known about this light other than it stands 36 feet tall, it is unmanned and is painted white on the top and black around the foundation.

#19 Sombrero Key Lighthouse: This Lighthouse stands 142 feet high, and it went into service in 1858, just before the Civil War. It is said it was named

Sombrero because of the hat a Spanish Missionary Priest wore back in 1743. It has two platforms. The lower one held the water and fuel tanks and a generator (after the light became electrified). The second one held the quarters for the staff that originally ran the light. Although the lighthouse is now unmanned, it is fully automated.

#20 Looe Key Light & American Shoal Lighthouse: These two are being combined because they are only a short distance apart. Looe Key was also named after a shipwreck, the

HMS Loo which crashed in 1744. In 1826 a brick 30-foot beacon was built; however it lasted only seven years, destroyed by a hurricane. Needing a lighthouse on a firmer foundation American Shoal Lighthouse was built a short distance away. It was lit in 1880 with the keepers' quarters 40 feet above the shoal. It is unmanned but automated now.

#21 Pelican Shoal Light: This light is relatively new, established in 1939 and then renovated in 1951. An active light, it stands in only 16 feet of water and is only 36 feet tall. Not much more is known about this light.

#22 Key West Lighthouse: This Lighthouse has already been written about. See your copy of Bow & Swing's June issue or check your own local publication's June/July issues.

#23 Sand Key Lighthouse: One of the few Keys not named after a shipwreck but rather because it was built on sand. Englishmen left a "day" beacon at Sand Key in 1770, but it was a half-century later before the lighthouse was built. The 63-foot brick lighthouse lasted until 1846, when it was demolished by a hurricane. The second lighthouse was erected on coral and stands 132 feet tall. Because of a fire, it was deactivated in 1989; however, it was reactivated in 1996 and is still operational today.

Judy Anderson, Publicity

On The Record Squares

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ON-GOING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SSD

The discussion of coming back post-pandemic with SSD as a DESTINATION program is really taking off. In one of the largest square dance areas in the world – Southern California – the club leadership, association leadership, and prominent callers have had quite a few productive meetings. The sentiment, while not yet unanimous, leans strongly to having SSD become THE dance program for all clubs in this region.

This is a huge departure from “the way we’ve always done things” mentality, and all of the leaders involved in this decision are to be congratulated for their open-mindedness. Admittedly, change is difficult. It can be forced on us or embraced and planned for. Planning for SSD as a club program is a big change and requires lots of planning, not only to execute a re-starting of dancing with a new program but also to answer the doubts of those opposed to change.

I have suggested that clubs, Mainstream or Plus, become SSD clubs that offer tips at the Mainstream or Plus level. An evening’s program could look like thirty-minutes of pre-rounds followed by ninety-minutes of SSD dancing followed by thirty or forty-minutes of Mainstream/Plus dancing. A comment received felt that including Mainstream or Plus tips might be an inducement for SSD dancers to “move on from SSD.” A valid concern. It’s been my experience that when higher-level ups were presented at the end of the evening, after the main event of dancing, that few people stayed on to the only watch those few that did were seldom interested in “moving on.”, For example, when Advanced tips are offered at the end of a Plus dance or A-2 tips at the end of an A-1 dance, In my opinion, if folks are happy with their dancing and if they think they look good, they will keep coming back every time.

I would further suggest that we need to offer diversity at our dances. By offering SSD as the main course of the evening while also having a place for Mainstream/Plus dancers, then we are inclusive and acknowledging those dancers who enjoy Mainstream or Plus. Perhaps at some date in 2022 or 2023, there may be enough dancers interested in learning Mainstream or Plus; meanwhile, we can dance under one big tent.

If you haven’t read my previous articles on SSD, please visit buddyweaver.com and click on the “articles” link. Write to me at buddy@buddyweaver.com and find me on Facebook on the following pages: Buddy Weaver, Blue Star Square

Dance Music, New Hi Hat Square Dance Music, and Rawhide Square Dance music.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – January 2021

All Things Considered

By Ed Foote

QUESTIONS ASKED OF ME

Over the years, dancers have asked me questions about how callers all. These include specific questions about how I call and general questions about all callers. Here are some of the questions I have received.

QUESTION: Are you nervous before you call a dance?

ANSWER: No. I have always believed that thorough preparation eliminates nervousness and that this applies to anything in life, not just calling. The only exception is when a person is new to an activity – now nervousness is to be expected.

QUESTION: How do you judge the ability of the floor?

ANSWER: I ask myself the question: “How good do these people look doing the calls they think they know all?” On calls like Square Thru and Wheel & Deal from standard positions, do the dancers look crisp and short, or do they sloppy?

Also, do the dancers take hands immediately after every call? If they do, it means they have been well-trained and are likely strong dancers. If they do not take hands, it is a weak floor.

Also, are the dancers “Walkers,” or do they dance to the beat of the music. Those who dance to the beat are always better dancers.

Many callers judge the ability of the floor by having a few prepared sequences they use in the first tip to see how the floor reacts. This works well also.

QUESTION: How long does it take you to judge the ability of the floor?

ANSWER: I better know the ability level halfway through the patten portion of the first tip. Occasionally I may not determine the ability level until early in the second tip, but this means I have probably been lazy and not truly observant.

QUESTION: Do you ever misjudge the ability level of the floor?

ANSWER: Occasionally. If I have judged them too low, and they prove they are better than I thought, I am quick to provide more creative choreography. If I

have judged them too high, this becomes quickly apparent, and I have no problem backing off to an easier level.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – January 2021

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

By Ed Foote

From the collection of Ed Foote

“The supreme happiness of life is the conviction of being loved for yourself, or, more correctly, being loved in spite of yourself” ...Victor Hugo

“You may forget with whom you laughed, but you will never forget with whom you wept.” ...author unknown

“Money will buy a pretty good dog, but it won’t buy the wag of his tail.” ...author unknown

“The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.” ...William James

“If you have people who will exclude any of God’s creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have those who will deal likewise with their fellow human beings.” ...St. Francis of Assisi

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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70th NSDC IS STILL ON!

Plan to get together with friends in the City with Soul

January 4, 2021— Chances are you probably haven't gotten out much this past year, thanks to the pandemic. Jackson, MS can cure that wanderlust as the city and surrounding areas have something to cater to all interests as the hosts for the **70th National Square Dance Convention®**.

The fun starts with the Pre-convention tour **June 20-23**, which is dedicated to the King, Elvis Presley. The tour will visit his birthplace in Tupelo, MS, before heading to Memphis, TN, for two days near his well-known home in Graceland. You will also get a chance to visit Beale Street, one of the best-known streets in the United States.

During the convention, there are plenty of other tours if you can tear yourself away from the dance floor. Continue the music theme with the Delta Blues Tour, which stops at the Grammy Museum, the Delta Blues Museum, and the Crossroads, where a blues legend sold his soul to the devil, or the Sing the Blues Tour, which visits the BB King Museum and Club Ebony. Pay tribute to the military with the Armed Forces Tour, which visits the Armed Forces Museum near Hattiesburg.

Jackson has plenty of history as well. Visit Merrehope, one of the few remaining Antebellum homes in Meridian, MS, on the Meridian Tour, or Stanton Hall, one of the most opulent houses in the south, on the Natchez Tour. If you want military history, travel to Vicksburg, MS, a major turning point in the American Civil War at Vicksburg.

Come for the dancing, stay for the culture! There's plenty to do in the City with Soul! For more information, visit 70nsdc.com and click on "tours."

NEWS

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71st NSDC offers historic tours, education events

The 71st National Square Dance Convention® committee, nicknamed the “River Rats,” is working hard to make sure everything is just right for the dancers coming to Evansville, IN, in June 2022.

Tours are being organized in Evansville and the surrounding area. Vincennes offers the Red Skelton Museum and Grouseland Mansion, home of William Henry Harrison, 9th President of the United States. Another tour is in Corydon, IN, the first Indiana State Capitol, with a themed-luncheon featuring one of the first Governors of Indiana.

Register for the convention at 71nsdc.org. While you’re there, check out the education programs themed “Making Waves.”



Cupid Crossfire and Angel Circulate wish you a happy Valentine’s Day.

SPECIAL ARTICLE

by Patty Kennedy Greene

What strange times we are going through. Dances and major events are being canceled and postponed hourly, it seems. Clubs are choosing to go dark for a bit in order to protect their members. Some are being forced to go dark because their facilities are being temporarily shuttered or restricted. Some are going to keep on dancing as long as they can. I have been asked by more than one person what I think.

So here you go:

We are one big massive Family. We are “Friendship set to Music.” We are uniquely poised to be a HOPE-filled community. We already support each other during our every day walks of life. We need to stay that course and be beacons of hope in our square dance community, our families, and in our larger circles.

Contrary to some of the swirling conversations going on out there, I don't believe that this is the death toll of our activity. We are entering into a little sabbatical until we are on the other side. We are NOT alone. Groups all over the world are making these same difficult decisions. Many of you are tired. This is a chance to rest, regroup, re-energize, and jump back in when the time is right.

We should be supporting our leaders as they make these difficult decisions, supporting our fellow dancers and callers/cuers/promoters as they make decisions as best as they know how. Not everyone is going to be happy no matter what decision is made. The Family SHOULD be gracious, kind, and understanding of the difficult decisions that are coming down the pike. There's no need to second-judge, disrespect, or bad mouth the decision-makers or the events. Trust me, those making the decisions are already agonizing over what to do. How about practicing some kindness? Too much judgement and inciteful language out there. Don't add to it. Err on the side of being kind.

The Family should be respectful of our dancer's decisions. If they choose to stay home for a bit, that's their right. Everyone is choosing their response according to their own circumstances and belief system, from “the sky is falling” to “just gonna live my life.” Be kind and gracious and let them know that you understand with no judgment. Assure your dancers that they will be welcome with open arms when we get back in the swing of things.

Reach out to your members. Get emails from everyone and just check-in. Get together in small groups for a meal or just to fellowship. Maintain connections with new dancers and experienced dancers alike. Be giving and forgiving.

And when things start to return back to normal, PLEASE support your clubs, your special events, your weekends. Welcome people back to the gatherings of

our Family. Look forward with hope. Don't sabotage by lamenting. Reach out to your students who will have been gone for a bit. If you have to start at Circle Left again – DO IT! Reshape and reframe your calendar. Be patient with those who are hesitant—welcome people with a smile and a handshake or a hug. Support your leaders as they restart activities.

I love my square dance family. I love them to infinity and beyond. I will love them during and after this current global crisis. I will be ready to jump back in with open arms and a rested spirit when we are able to fellowship again.

Reprint from USDA NEWS Volume XXXII Issue 2 Apr-Jun, 2020

Could Our Yellow Rock Become A Fossil?

Today is day 18 of Ohio's "Stay at Home" order, and all is well, or as well as it could possibly be living in a Corona Virus world.

Ohioans are hardy people; they listen to what they are told to do, they follow directions, and it seems that early indications suggest we may be cautiously successful in flattening the curve in the fight against the spread of this invisible menace to society.

People are living apart together, supporting each other by celebrating the small victories shared on the evening news every night and lifting up each other's spirits with at home concerts, tic-toc videos, Zoom meetings, and everything from virtual bingo to Jimmy Fallon doing the Tonight Show from his home.

As a very small glimmer of hope shines a bit brighter today, a simple glance into the future by the most comforting and encouraging of voices, Dr. Tony Fauci indicated that the world we once knew is now forever changed, and with it comes possibly new ways we will need to adjust and maybe, just maybe, one of them is such as simple a thing as shaking hands.

This got me thinking today, as a long-time square dancer, will our Yellow Rocks turn to stone?

Square Dancers by nature are gloriously happy people; we follow a tradition that is as warm and genuine as it comes when we square up when we see one another at a local dance, weekend festival, State or National Convention. It is an international hug, a warm embrace shared between all dancers from Maine to Malibu, from Washington to West Palm Beach, and everywhere in between. Take it across the pond and anywhere in Europe, and you will find the same thing. For all square dancers, hello, good-bye, take care, you OK? And anything

else that means I care about you is all wrapped in on one good “Yellow Rock,” also known in layman’s terms as a great big hug.

Where will our Yellow Rock fit into a post corona world is the thought that crossed my mind today. I can’t imagine seeing anyone of our square dance family and not automatically throwing my arms around them in a joyous Yellow Rock hug. It would be as strange and as foreign as the thought of staying at home endlessly without the intimate contact of family or friends, yet here we are.

I am sure that eventually, the time will come to celebrate the new life we all will learn to live in a post coronavirus world. Will it be the same? I don’t know, probably not? Some dancers are no longer here, victims to the nondiscriminating vicious micro malady that has scourged our Cities, States, Country, and World; what a sad day it will be to square up to the realization that someone special is missing.

Time will only tell, and like us Ohioans, Square Dancers are hardy people; we will survive to dance again. When the day comes for new classes to start, the call goes out for Angels to help, and dancers square up at Grange Halls, Churches, School Cafeterias, Festivals, and Conventions; all will be well. Maybe if we bump elbows instead of sharing Yellow Rocks, we will stand a chance to dance again.

(Contributed by Marianne King, Greater Cincinnati Federation)

USDA NEWS Volume XXXII Issue 4 Oct-Dec, 2020

WELL, I WONDER WHERE THE YELLOW ROCK WENT

I don’t exactly remember how old I was at the time but, I do remember it was a long time ago; there was a commercial with this catchy little jingle that seemed to get caught in my brain and would not go away. This song was constantly running through my mind. “Oh, I wonder where the yellow went when I brushed my teeth with Pepsodent?” Remember it?

Several weeks ago, I was reading some information on the coronavirus and how it would affect our square dancing. I didn’t think much of it at the time, but later on, I realized that this thought kept running through my mind. It was beginning to create this curiosity about where, how, and when did they call “yellow rock” become a part of square dancing. When did it become a part of

anything? Enquiring minds want to know, so it was “look out Google, here I come.”

Much to my surprise, I was not able to find very much information on the “yellow rock.” I searched various means through the computer but always came up empty-handed. Not to be defeated, I knew that the most logical thing to do now was to ask a caller. I had already determined that “yellow rock” has been around a long time, so I needed to ask a caller that had been around a long time. So I picked a few of the older guys, which I will not name cause they don’t know they are old, and told them my dilemma and asked them for some help. Then came surprise number two. They didn’t know either. I got responses like, “I don’t know. I have been calling for more than 50 years, and it has always been there, “or a few that said, “I don’t like the call, and I never use it.” Some were not sure of the exact date, but they thought it started in the ’50s or ’60s. Now I am really beginning to get frustrated.

Why didn’t I think of this to begin with? I will ask the USDA Executive Committee. If you want to know something about square dancing, you turn to the world’s largest square dance association for help. I finally found some help. Tony and Diana Rock (Presidents), Ed and Lynda Willis (VP for the Central Region,) and Dan Reedy (Youth Advisor) all responded to my request. They did not have answers, but they thought they knew people that could help us, and they spent considerable time pursuing this information. Now we are beginning to make some progress, and I thank all of these folks for the time and effort they gave.

As I look back on this, it amazes me that this much time has been spent on trying to learn more about a square dance call that is not even an official call. It is not on any call list and probably never will be, yet it seems to be one of the dancer’s favorites. And why not? As Maryanne King mentioned in her article “Could Our Yellow Rock Become a Fossil,” it is a dancer’s way of saying hello, good-bye, take care, you OK?, and anything else that means I care about you all wrapped up in one good old “Yellow Rock.”

Dan Reedy referred to an article he read from 2013 that discussed Yellow Rock and suggested that it originated at the Fun Valley Square Dance Resort in CO. Dancers that came there liked the call and took it with them to their home clubs, and the call was expanded that way. Ed and Lynda spent hours with emails to/from various people, but none had the information we were looking for.

Tony and Diana remembered an article by Ed Foote some time back, and they got in touch with him, and he graciously gave his permission to reprint this in our USDA NEWS. Ed is also a regular contributing writer for American Square Dance Magazine, so I also checked with Susanelaine Parker, the new owner, and publisher of Square Dance Magazine, and she also gave us permission to use Ed's article.

So far, our thoughts on the survival of the Yellow Rock have been centered around the coronavirus. The article on the following page was written before this virus shut down the square dance world. So join us on the following page as we do learn where the Yellow Rock Call was first called. Ed does not tell us the time period, so we are still looking for a date. If you know, please send me an email—usdanews@usda.org.

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CHANGING TIMES: THE FUTURE OF YELLOW ROCK

By Ed Foote

Yellow Rock, including variations with other names, has been a part of the square dance activity for over 50 years. This name for hugging was invented by a caller calling at Yellow Rock Barn outside of Kansas City, MO. For decades people considered Yellow Rock harmless fun and a way to increase friendliness in square dancing. But in these changing times of sexual harassment focus, it may be time to take another look at Yellow Rock.

In recent years we have seen a sharp rise in sexual harassment issues in the news, including confidential agreements, high profile trials, and resignations of people in prominent positions. What is and is not sexual harassment is a subject of widespread debate.

The Board of Governors (25 callers) of CALLERLAB did so at a recent annual convention, where considerable time was devoted to a discussion of the issue. Male members, who comprise a majority of the Board, were genuinely concerned about whether they could be accused of sexual harassment if they called Yellow Rock. In addition, they worried whether they could be accused if they themselves gave someone a Yellow Rock.

Female members of the Board described their experiences of appropriate and inappropriate Yellow Rocks that they had received over the years. It quickly became clear that there is a fine line between appropriate and inappropriate

hugging and that this line is different for each person—both the giver and the receiver of the Yellow Rock.

Male callers were concerned that they might be reported to CALLERLAB for an ethics violation if they call Yellow Rock, even though there is currently nothing specific on this topic in the CALLERLAB Code of Ethics. They were also concerned they might be reported if they gave a Yellow Rock to someone—reported either by the person who received the Yellow Rock or by someone viewing the action from across the room.

More on Yellow Rock. The story was told of a well-known caller who started a large beginners class. This caller recognized that the personal space of new dancers was much larger than those who have danced a long time, so he intentionally never showed Yellow Rock until later in class. This caller had to miss the third night of class, and the replacement caller showed Yellow Rock. The next week half the class had quit because their personal space had been invaded in a manner unacceptable to them.

Bottom Line. The Board took no vote on this issue, and callers are free to call Yellow Rock as they wish. But many callers on the Board said they had already stopped calling Yellow Rock, and others said they planned to do so. They all agreed it was just a no-win situation for them.

So, while Yellow Rock will not be going away, it is likely to be used far less in the future. When you notice that the use of Yellow Rock is in decline, remember the observations made here, and you will know the reason.

USDA NEWS Volume XXXII Issue 4 Oct-Dec, 2020

WHO IS - ED FOOTE?

I am quite familiar with the name Ed Foote, and I have read several of his articles, but I don't know Ed Foote. When I ran across the following in "Let's Square Dance," I thought that perhaps there are others that are in the same position as I am. Know the name, but not the person.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me introduce you to—Mr. Ed Foote

Ed Foote from Pittsburgh, PA USA is well-known throughout the world to dancers at Mainstream through Challenge. He has called for 55 years, in all 50 U.S. states and throughout Canada, Europe, and Asia. He made 11 calling trips to England from 1981- 2005, where he called in all parts of the country.

He currently calls throughout the U.S. and is the regular caller for three square dance clubs in his home area, having been with each club for over 50 years. A member of Callerlab's Board of Governors, he has been an active member

in that organization for 46 years, including being a committee chairman for 43 years. He is an Accredited Callerlab Caller Coach and has conducted caller clinics and schools in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. In 2008 he received the Callerlab Milestone Award for significant contribution to the field of square dancing. Ed is a well-known square dance author, having written and edited several instructional books on square dancing, and he has had hundreds of articles published throughout the world.

AND NOW—WE KNOW THE REST OF THE STORY

USDA NEWS Volume XXXII Issue 4 Oct-Dec, 2020

PRESIDENTIAL GUIDE TO VIRTUAL DANCING

The last time I engaged in Real Dancing was in March, a few days before Lock-down. Now, feeling decidedly unmatched fit, out of condition, and struggling to remember what day of the week it is, let alone square dance definitions, I decided to embark on a spot of Virtual Dancing henceforth to be known as V.D.

For your delectation, I offer a light-hearted guide for newbie dancers to the V.D. world. Do not assume that V.D. just amounts to showing up, pressing the link, moving the sofa, and squaring up. To maximize the benefits of V.D., remember 'Preparation is key.'

1. Allow plenty of time to prepare the dance space. Humping large pieces of furniture around (in my case alone) is no easy matter. It requires skill and energy, both of which you will need in spades when the real V.D. starts.
2. Wear suitable footwear. After 20 minutes of shuffling around in fluffy slippers (no, not pink ones on this occasion, but thanks for asking) on carpet is not conducive to good body flow.
3. Allow yourself time for a pre-V.D. Lie-down, your body will have forgotten just how tiring dancing is.
4. Make sure that snacks and beverages are readily accessible.
5. Dancing indoors is preferable to outdoors. On one occasion, on a particularly hot and humid night, I danced on my patio, having flung open, yes with gay abandon, my French doors. All was going so well; I had even chalked out the

position of the dancers and the flagpole when a succession of emergency vehicles was heard driving like ‘The Dukes of Hazzard’ along the nearby main road. As night fell, the bats were out and about. But what finally drove me indoors was after a spectacular display of ‘Donner and Blitzen’ there followed a sudden heavy downpour. I quickly retreated inside. Couldn’t go out again – it had washed away my chalk marks !!!

I would recommend all dancers to give it a go; you don’t have to dance; it is just as interesting and useful to sit and listen to the moves. Also, it is wonderful to meet up with dancers from other countries. I dance regularly to DiGreen and Terry McCann, and they have dancers from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, USA, Russia, Wales, Belgium, France, and of course, us Brits! When Terry ends his tips, he always asks, ‘Are you home?’ To which I reply (under my breath), yes, Terry, I’m AT HOME, but not always in my Home Position. Of course, the beauty of V.D. is that nobody knows if you go wrong, so please don’t tell him that I sometimes do! Thanks, and Stay Safe.

Let’s make Square and Round Dancing great again!

Written by SUSAN ELLIS, President British Association of American Square Dance Clubs
(Reprinted from Let’s Square Dance—Sep 2020)

ROUND DANCING - WE PROTEST!!! YES, WE PROTEST THAT:

- Round Dancing makes a conventional dance seem boring.
- Round Dancing makes it impossible to keep your feet still when you hear one of your own numbers played on the radio.
- Round Dancing makes you venture out on a night that you wouldn't even send a dog out on.
- Round Dancing makes you attend an all-day Square & Round Dance session, and then drag your weary feet out on the very next night because you hate to miss the new dances at club.
- Round Dancing Gives you not a minute's rest on Square Dance Club night - aver all, who wants to sit out a "round"?

YES, WE PROTEST THAT IF WE HADN'T GOTTEN INVOLVED IN ALL THIS, WE'D HAVE NEVER:

- Had so much fun
- Made so many good friends
- Gotten around so much
- Kept ourselves active
- And added that 'spice of life' that everyone talks about.

(Copied from Let’s Square Dance—“Around the Square” - Barry Wonson Aug. 2020)

What kind of club would
my club be if everyone
was just like me?

Reprint from USDA NEWS Volume
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The DANCERgram magazines presented on this website are written and published by a square and round dancer concerned about preserving our dance activity. The magazines include *Planner* (weekly), *This & That* (monthly), *Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies* (as needed), and *Directory* (as needed). All of the magazines are under the DANCERgram banner. In the event of new information between publication dates, notification is sent via the *Flash*.

The Editor reserves the right to edit, condense, or rewrite any submission to the DANCERgram magazines. Opinions expressed in any DANCERgram magazine or on this website are not necessarily that of the Editor or the West Coast Square and Round Dancers' Association. All new information (since the previous issue) in these magazines is highlighted in yellow.

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