

# DANCERgram

October 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:



We, in the West Coast Association area, are anxious for the return of the snowbirds! When they get here, we hope to be dancing in full force. During this time, we have realized that we don't have very many year-round callers and cuers in our area! We are excited though that new callers and cuers are moving into our area over the next year or so.

Callers Sam Dunn and Mike Gormley are working on bringing Social Square Dancing (SSD) to Highlands County. They will both have a class and after the first two weeks, they will merge for a dance. If you're not familiar with SSD, it is a new dance program to hopefully bring in more dancers quicker. With this program, there is no more of not taking new dancers after the first three weeks. People can join the class at any time. There are only 50 calls to learn, which can be accomplished in approximately 12 weeks.

During the past couple of weeks, I have received so many inquiries from people new to the area looking for dances and classes. We had a new caller come into our area last December and in the past week, I have been communicating with a cuer from Georgia, a caller from Tennessee, and a caller from Alabama who have homes in southwest Florida and will be moving down here later this year.

We are very pleased to hear that Carol Griffin will return to cueing at the Promenade Squares Halloween Dance on Friday, October 22nd. Sam Dunn will be calling. I know it will be an exciting dance!

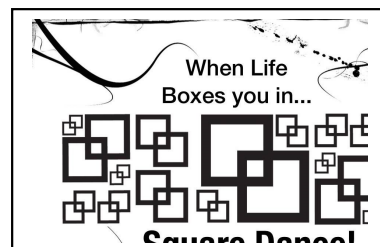
Caller Scotty Sharrer is recovering from his cancer surgery and is anxious to get back to calling. We're anxious for him to come back! Blessings to Marlene, his caregiver, who is assisting him with his therapy and taking him to his doctors' appointments. It's not an easy job!

With all that has been going on for the past year-and-a-half, people forgot to renew their membership in the West Coast Association, and we only have six paid members! We just rolled out a membership campaign that we hope will entice a lot of people to join. Renewals for 2021 and 2022 are free. New members must pay for their engraved badges, and they will receive the bar dangle for free. Callers and cuers are also welcomed to join our Association. Their renewals are free and if they are a new member, they pay for the engraved name badge. Everyone will be able to attend our Membership Dances for free until the end of 2022. Our usual procedure is for members to dance at our Membership Dances for free and guests pay \$6 per person. We hope to see a big boost in our membership numbers!

Unfortunately, we have decided to cancel our Annual Fall Fun Fest due to low registrations. If you have already purchased your ribbon(s), they will be good in 2022 unless you would like a refund. Please send your request and ribbon(s) to Ann Slocum at 2055 S. Floral Avenue, #99, Bartow, Florida 33830. The 2022 FFF will be on November 11 – 12, 2022 with Callers Ted Kennedy and Jack Lewis, and Cuer Earle Collins.

Many of us are anxious to attend the Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention on March 18 – 19, 2022. I have been visiting the clubs that are open selling ribbons and door prize raffle tickets. Don't delay registering for the State Convention; if the registrations are too low they will have no recourse but to cancel the Convention.

Penny Green  
President



## CLASSIFIEDS

**We must get some volunteers to fill these positions. The people who are always doing the work need a break. Dance level and number of years dancing are not a prerequisite.**

**2022 Fall Fun Fest Chairman** – Responsibilities: schedule the callers, cuer, and the facility, make arrangements for a special rate at the hotels and campground, order ribbons, make arrangements for fundraisers at the Fest, etc. People can be appointed for each of these tasks. Solos, couples, or partners may serve in this position. Position start date: as soon as a chairman is identified.

**2022 Fall Fun Fest Secretary** – record notes at committee meetings, sell 50/50 tickets at the Fall Fun Fest.

**2022 Fall Fun Fest Registration Chairman** – coordinate the selling of the ribbons, receive registrations in the mail, and mail ribbons

**2022 West Coast Association Vice President** – Responsibilities: make arrangements for the Membership Dances for the year. West Coast Board meetings are now virtual so there is no longer an issue about a long drive to attend the meeting, Position start date: immediately.

**2022 Federation Alternate Delegate (2 positions)** – Responsibilities: attend three Federation meetings a year (one meeting is held the weekend of the Florida State Convention, the location of one is at the discretion of the outgoing president. It is usually during the dance weekend of the outgoing president's association. One meeting is a weekend meeting in May.) The alternate delegate only votes when one of the regular delegates is not at the meeting. However, the alternate delegates should attend all the meetings to be familiar with the issues and will be informed if they should have to vote. Position start date: TBD

**Club Representatives** – Every club should have a representative to represent them at the West Coast Association Board meetings. Each representative (solo or couple) gets one vote. It is recommended to have a representative other than someone who is already on the Board. For example, if one of your members is already a county rep, you should have someone else serve as your club representative. This gives us more votes when making decisions instead of having only five or six people voting.

**Contact Penny Green for questions or if you are willing to volunteer for one of these positions. [sgdncfan@gmail.com](mailto:sgdncfan@gmail.com) or 863-224-3393**

# Project Free

Freedom, Respect, Education, Employment

Promenade Squares is sponsoring square dance lessons for young adults with special needs every Monday at 11:00 a.m.

2026 51<sup>st</sup> Street South  
Gulfport, Florida  
(in Pinellas County)

## MORE SQUARE DANCE ANGELS ARE NEEDED!!!!

There are 10 delightful students who loved their first lesson. They had to take turns dancing because there weren't enough angels.

If you would like to help and have questions or need a ride, please email Jan Friend at [friendib@verizon.net](mailto:friendib@verizon.net) or 727-798-3839.

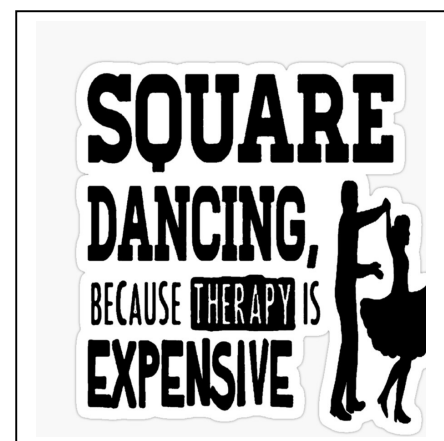
## New Social Dance Club Coming to Brandon

DJ Ken will be playing at the Brandon Community Center, 502 E. Sadie Street in Brandon. This dance is open to the public and there is no charge.

This will not work for the majority of our dancers, but if you know anyone that lives in that area, please tell them about this dance. This could help us build our ance at Strawberry Square Dance Center.

Dance date and time: hopefully this dance will be every first Friday of every month, but at present, it will be once a quarter. The first dance is on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The dance is from 12 noon till 2 PM. There might be finger food available, and the vending machines might work but feel free to bring your own drinks and snacks.

Ken Miller  
863-409-7714  
[pcsocialdanceclub@inbox.com](mailto:pcsocialdanceclub@inbox.com)  
Website: [djkenmiller.com](http://djkenmiller.com)



# Jack and Ilene Lewis' December Western Caribbean Square Dance Cruise

*December 4 - 11, 2021 - Western Caribbean Square Dance Cruise - Hosts: Jack and Ilene Lewis. Departs from Miami, Florida.*

Fantastic news about our December cruise on Symphony of the Seas!

We have several bits of fantastic news about our December 4th cruise on the Symphony of the Seas and wanted to share it with all of you, both those that have already signed up and those that may be thinking about it.

First - Royal Caribbean has lowered their prices for the cruise. Normally, those who have already paid in full don't get any benefit from lowered prices, but Royal has decided to give large onboard credits to all of us who have already paid for the cruise. If you sign in to your RoyalCaribbean.com account, you will see your onboard credit.

Second - Ilene and I decided to "test the waters" for cruising in light of COVID. We just came back from a week's cruise to the Caribbean and want to tell you about how great it was and how safe it was. Everyone who sailed was required to be vaccinated and also had to get a COVID test no more than two days before sailing. Original proof of vaccination and a negative test result was required at check-in. That meant that no one coming on the ship had COVID. Check-in was staggered, so there were no lines. The ship normally handled over 6000 passengers, but this sailing had only 1500 passengers on board. We were required to wear masks on board, except when eating or drinking. The buffet was open, but we were served, rather than having self-service. The ship had a new air-filtration system and surfaces were constantly being cleaned and disinfected. There were hand washing and hand sanitizing stations everywhere. There was even a sign in the elevator to "press the buttons with your knuckles". Our temperature was taken every day. The shops limited entry to a certain number of people at a time. The theater had seats marked where you could sit so that there was no one next to you or your group and no one in front or in the back of you. There were no cases of COVID throughout the cruise and no one contracted it. We were not on a Royal Caribbean ship, but Royal has announced that it will be following the same protocols.

You know that with my health history, I would not put myself in jeopardy if I thought it was unsafe to cruise at this time. We also traveled with friends who were immune-compromised, and we all felt that the cruise was completely safe....even more so than going shopping at home. We came back convinced

that cruising is again a great vacation, and the cruise lines are doing everything they can to keep us safe.

Third - As we said before, Royal Caribbean has lowered its prices. They also have inventory left on our cruise for any of you who want to sign up. If any of you have been thinking about signing up or if you canceled because you were nervous about sailing and would like to "re-join" us, now is the time to do so. The rates are even lower than what we were originally paying.

The latest rates on the cruise, which are subject to change are:

Inside Cabin	\$452 plus tax
Oceanview cabin (window)	\$523 plus tax
Central Park or Boardwalk Balcony	\$526 plus tax
Oceanview Balcony	\$643 plus tax

Taxes are \$157.86

If you would like to book the cruise, please call our travel agent, Seth, at 786-200-4912. He is currently on vacation but is answering his cell phone. If you have trouble reaching him, you can either email us at [lewisjsquare@yahoo.com](mailto:lewisjsquare@yahoo.com) or call us at 561-731-3119 and we will have him call you.

We look forward to having you with us in December. It will feel great getting your lives back in order.

Jack & Ilene Lewis



## The deadlines are fast approaching!

**October 20, 2021** – West Coast Association Distinguished Service Award

**December 1, 2021** – Hall of Fame Award

**January 15, 2022** – Extra Mile Award

For details on each award, click here <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dancergram.com%2FCurrentPDF%2FDeadlines.pdf&clen=704009&chunk=true>

Even though we have not danced for the past year and a half, is there anyone that has continued to promote square dancing i.e., Federation or Association officers, committee chairman, publication editors, etc.

'Everybody can dance, its the drive and passion that makes you a dancer.'



# 67<sup>th</sup> Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention

## LIGHTHOUSE #46 Pensacola Lighthouse “HAUNTED”

**#46 Pensacola Lighthouse:** The first Pensacola Lighthouse was not a house at all but a “Lightship” called the “*Aurora Borealis*” which had been moved from its post at the mouth of the Mississippi River to Pensacola in 1823. It was not until 1825 that a 40-foot tower was built at the south entrance to Pensacola Bay which was a bad idea as it was obscured by trees so in 1858 a new 150-foot tower was constructed on a 40-foot bluff on the then Pensacola Naval Station, it was painted all white. Sometime before 1860, the light in the tower went dark for reasons unknown.

Going back in history, at the start of the Civil War (1861), Pensacola was controlled by Confederate forces while across the bay Fort Pickens was controlled by the Union forces. Later the Confederate forces evacuated Pensacola and Union forces took over. In 1863 the Pensacola Lighthouse was re-lit and the upper 2/3rds was painted black and it remains so to this day, black on top and the lower white.

### The “HAUNTING”

The “Haunting” centers around an early keeper of the Pensacola Light named Jeremiah Ingraham. He took his maintenance duties very seriously climbing the 177 stairs nightly toting a bucket of whale oil in each hand to fill the early lamps to keep them lit for the night. After 14 years of this grueling work, he died but not from a broken back or heart attack but----- murder -----which is still a mystery to this day.

As most mysteries start – it was a dark and stormy night both outside and inside the lighthouse. Outside hurricane-force winds howled while inside a violent verbal exchange was going on between the keeper and possibly his wife, (not known for sure if it was his wife or jealous lover). Each screaming and cursing was as violent as the storm outside. After about an hour the brawling stopped amid a lot of pain-like screams. “No-No” the keeper shouted, then complete silence! A short time later the lady dashed outside running in circles and sobbing uncontrollably, covered with blood. She was holding an ivory-handled long-bladed fisherman’s knife. Authorities found the keeper's lifeless body in the upstairs bedroom, his blood collecting in a huge pool on the pinewood floor near the fireplace. After a complete investigation of the murder

scene, a crew was sent in to do the nasty job of cleaning up the crime scene including the bloody mess by the fireplace but the next day the stain stilled showed. It was cleaned up again but the following morning it had returned, as it did day after day after day, and the smell also continued. Finally, the bedroom was closed off completely.

The woman pleaded self-defense even though the town officials were suspicious of her motives not to mention the violence of her act, they released her to return to the keepers' dwellings. It is said at dawn the next morning she was performing the keepers' duties of climbing the 171 stairs and filling the lamps with oil. The woman's identity, unfortunately, has been lost to history.

Construction workers renovating the lighthouse after the tragic incident reported hearing laughter, moaning, breathing, and footsteps on the iron stairway. Some say they even saw a ghostly figure at the window of the locked door. Many other unusual sightings and noises have been reported over the past 125+ years since the murder. Weird horrid laughter from closed rooms. Happy laughter echoing in the hallways. Footsteps were being heard on the metal steps with no one there. All doors locked at night only to be standing wide open the next morning and the instances go on and on. For the most part, the lighthouse is cordoned off to the public, but some tours are available.

The stain on the bedroom floor has been proven time and time again to be blood. It stubbornly refuses to budge no matter how hard it is scrubbed and with every know cleaner. It has even been sanded.

\* \* \* \*

Better start thinking seriously about making your hotel reservations for the State Convention. The HOST HOTEL is again the Homewood Suites on Bill France Blvd, Daytona Beach. They only have 20 rooms remaining available. Call 386-258-2828 and be *sure* you ask for the "Square Dancers Rate". They offer a FREE BREAKFAST, too. AND this is the hotel where the *After Party* will be held, also. You can also check the Home2 Suites (386-400-2300) on Fentress Blvd should the host hotel be all booked. Again, ask for the "Square Dancers Rate". The big hotel (Hilton) across the street from the Convention Center would not work with us on special dancer rates, so if you want to stay there you will pay full price and no free breakfast.

Camping: The Sunshine Holiday RV Resort in Ormond Beach is offering a square dances rate of \$28.00 per night. Call 386-672-3045. For other camping, venues contact our Camping Chairpersons Paul & Marilyn Scott at 904-264-9392 for a complete rundown of places in the area.

For questions or to volunteer to help make this Convention another Big Success, contact Carol & Richard Douget at 410-952-7408. They are still searching for someone to plan the After-Party Entertainment and also the After-Party Treats (FOOD!!!!!!)

Judy Anderson, Publicity Chairman

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*Caller Jack Pladdys is moving from AOL as his primary email provider. His new email address is [jpladdys@gmail.com](mailto:jpladdys@gmail.com). His back-up email address is [jack@jackpladdys.com](mailto:jack@jackpladdys.com). He will be monitoring his AOL account until March 31, 2022. Please update your records.*

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## **Promote, Promote...**

Have you ever considered that as a caller, cuer, or instructor, you are a business? What do businesses do to get more business? They promote themselves!

Let's go over some ways you can do that.

You probably think that advertising is too expensive. There is some free advertising or minimal cost advertising that you should consider utilizing. Advertising can be anything from just getting your name out there or designing fancy ads.

Let's talk about free advertising first.

- First, there are two things you need to do before you start putting your name out there.
  - It is very beneficial to have a headshot taken; not a photo of you on a boat with your hair windblown and two or three days of stubble on your chin. It doesn't have to be a professional photo and you don't have to wear a coat and tie. You can wear a nice square dance shirt that has a nice background, like a bare wall or in front of a drape. A lot of people are using headshots on flyers. It's always good to have a nice photo available when you are asked for one. Some of your members are photographers. Periodically, the Suncoast Callers & Cuers Association sets up a camera at their meeting and takes headshots of the members which are posted to their website.

- **Professional recordings** – these should be recordings that were recorded in a recording studio, not a video that was taken on someone’s cell phone at a dance or convention. The recording should be professional with no background noises. It’s nice to have these recordings on your website, if you have one, and to include them in your response to requests to do an event.
- **Bio** – Everyone in business should have a bio. The bio can be professionally prepared, or you can do it yourself, but make sure it looks professional. A bio should be limited to one or two pages. They should be written in the third person and shouldn’t contain information that quickly dates the bio and they should be updated periodically so they are always current. There are some festivals and conventions that include the callers’ and cuers’ bios in the program book. If you need assistance preparing your bio, please contact [sqdnxfan@gmail.com](mailto:sqdnxfan@gmail.com) or 863-224-3393.
- Next, add your name to [www.ceder.net](http://www.ceder.net). This is a database of callers and cuers from around the world. It is hosted and managed by Caller Vic Ceder and his wife Debbie. You can set up a profile that includes not only your name, but your contact information, a bio, the levels you call or cue, a list of what you do (teach, one-nighters, dances, etc.), a photo, the link to your website (if you have one), your memberships and certifications, and even short clips of any professional recordings you have made. The important thing about this database is keeping the information current. If you move, change your email address or phone number, add awards or certifications, be sure to **update your profile**. This database is a great place to find someone’s phone number or email address. The Editor of the DANCERgram has been notifying Debbie of deaths and retirements so she can note it on your profile. A copy of the obituary is also sent (if there is one), and Debbie posts it on the profile too. Several profiles have old addresses or are outdated. You, as the account holder, must make the updates. No one else can make them for you.
- The Florida Callers Association has a very nice website that is managed by Skip Cleland, one of the FCA members. All of the members are listed, along with a photo and contact information, a website link, and a map showing where you are located. If your address is wrong, you will be shown in the wrong place on the map. Several photos are missing, there are outdated photos, and in some cases, there are pictures of callers with a spouse they are no longer with. Many of the profiles do not have a bio. When people search the internet for Florida callers, the FCA website is probably the first on the list.
  - Florida has regional callers’ associations; some are active and the status of some is unknown. Suncoast Callers & Cuers is the only

one that has a website, which among other things lists its members with pretty much the same information as the FCA site and the Ceder database.

All these databases are free, your cooperation is needed to always keep them current.

- **Business cards** – Everyone should have business cards. You never know when you'll need to give your phone number to someone. You can also put some of them on the table where you are calling from or on the table where you have your flyers laid out. All you need is a simple little card that has your name, contact information, and what your business is. If you have an email address but you never check it, please don't put it in any of your advertising. You might also want to mention if you send and receive text messages. There are still a lot of people who don't like texting.
  - You can make your business cards on the computer, or you can pay to have someone print them. There are business card templates available on the internet; all you do is add your information and print as many as you want. You can also purchase them from Vista Print for a reasonable cost. They save your template and when you need more just place an order; they will still have your template.
  - You should always carry business cards with you and hand them out to anyone you talk to. These cards can also be used for ads in program booklets.

Now, on to advertising that requires a financial investment.

- As a fundraiser for festivals and conventions, a program book is compiled, and ads are sold. Our own Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention has a program book with ads of varying sizes. December 30, 2021, is the deadline to submit ads. You can use your business card, or you can create one that says thanks to the convention committee for a good job or to congratulate someone for something they have accomplished. The order form to submit ads can be found at <http://floridasquaredance.com/convention/index.html>. Click on the blue button labeled Advertising Form. The ads are usually a business card size, quarter page, half page, inside/outside cover, or full-page and prices range from \$25 to \$70. In the program books, this is for a one-time ad. Of the five regional dancer associations in Florida, four have an association newsletter. They run ads for a year and then you renew your order for another year. The DANCERgram is currently not set up to accept paid advertising.
- The *USDANews*, which is the publication of the United Square Dancers of America, accepts ads and flyers in camera-ready form only and of the

proper size. The proper size is 7½ x 10 for a full-size page or 7½ x 5 for a half-page.

- There is also *Bow & Swing* our state publication and *American Square Dance*. Both magazines are published in Florida by SusanElaine Packard.
- There is a Publication Deadline list of the recommended publications that Florida should consider for advertising, which includes submission deadlines and contact information. The DANCERgram Editor maintains this list and will forward it to you upon request.

As a sidebar, please make sure someone in your family knows who to contact in the square dance community about your illness or passing so we can spread the word. We have been contacted several times by adult children trying to prepare the obituary, but they have no idea what awards have been received, your accomplishments in square dancing, and the organizations you belong to. If there is a complete bio on file, it can be forwarded to the family member. Mary Giera in Northeast and I maintain a file of headshots and bio information for the callers, cuers, and the dancers that are involved at the regional and state levels. It is unknown if any of the other associations have a file for their area.

## **CALLERLAB Viewpoint**

### **“How May I Help? – Part 2**

By Barry Clasper

Part 1 of this article appeared in last month’s CALLERLAB Viewpoints portion of this magazine.

#### 3. Help with Appropriate Force

The basic principle in offering help should be “less is better, none is best.” Given this idea, I suggest the following escalating levels of help:

##### A. No help at all.

By far the best sort of help. Dance your own part. Be where you’re supposed to be when you’re supposed to be. Give others the maximum opportunity to see positions and formations by being precise and correct in your own dancing. Don’t take shortcuts, dance all movements completely and to the music. When dancing material involving complex formations, do a surreptitious check before moving from your pot to ensure everyone else has seen the formation. Once

you leave, their task in an order of magnitude more difficult. Be firm in your use of handhold and hand pressures during the execution of calls. Limp appendages during moves like Relay the Shadow or Follow Your Leader can show somebody who is unsure.

Point the way (discreetly),

All inconspicuous gesture to indicate a direction or a target position is often the only clue people need to handle their part of the call. O marks awarded for flamboyance or clever charades.

B. Verbal cues.

Only a word or short phrase, combined with a gesture. No dissertations, just a clue.

C. Hand pressure

A nudge or a touch on the arm or shoulder to get their attention, or hand pressure to indicate a turning direction. No blunt objects, please.

D. Laying on of hands.

As an absolute last resort, grasp an arm or shoulder (gently, always gently) and move the person into position – but only if you can do it without leaving your proper position. If you leave your rightful spot to tend to somebody else, you may sufficiently distort the formation that others become confused. Now you've compounded the problem!

4. Know When to Stop

Just as you shouldn't help unless it is absolutely necessary, don't continue to help when it's no longer needed. A single mistake does not necessitate a whole evening of continuous assistance.

A tougher call to make is when you are asked to help by people whose dancing skills exceed their self-confidence. If you continue to help past the point where they actually need it, you may be breeding a dependence that will hamper them later. Make sure they dance everything they are capable of and provide the encouragement they need to build their self-confidence – but, again, gently. Encouragement is almost as controversial as help (when does encouragement become pressure?)

So much for the helpers. Being a “helpee”, however, also requires certain skills. Here is my “Helpee’s Handbook”:

1. Admit When You Need Help

Everybody needs help sometimes. If you’re confused or unsure, ask for help. You will usually find that those you ask are more than willing to provide it.

2. Don’t Panic

As in the case with most pressure situations, dithering about in a panic when the square starts to look strange will accomplish nothing. Instead, concentrate, examine the formation, recite the rule of the call, force yourself to think.

3. Let People Know You’re in Trouble

Don’t force the other dancers in the square to read your mind if you have a problem with a call. Do or say something to let them know. There should be a significant difference in your demeanor that separates the “I’m in deep trouble” state from the “I know what I’m doing” state. I usually just say “Help, I’m lost”. It’s kind of boring, but it gets the job done.

As a corollary to this, keep your eyes open for help that is being offered. Don’t expect someone to escort you to your position and tuck you in. You have to cooperate and be receptive.

4. Use Recovery Strategies

There are some easy tricks that might help you recover your position even if you have no idea what just transpired:

1. Look for the hole.

If you’re the only one who is at sea, there is usually a hole somewhere in the formation, conspicuous by your absence.

2. Go With the Flow

Good callers tend to use choreography that flows. If you follow the body flow, there is a decent chance that you’re headed in roughly the right direction.



3. Be Flexible (be a girl, or head or side, etc.)

If you find you find you're not where you're supposed to be, just assume your new identity. Who knows, you may find a new thrill in life. If you keep the square going there is an excellent chance that you will get an opportunity to fix the problem later.

4. Watch Opposites and Counterparts

If you're confused, keep an eye on your opposite. If your opposite is also confused (or is watching you), look for your counterpart in another square. DON'T use this as a dancing technique. It's a recovery technique, only to be used after you've become completely lost.

5. Keep Dancing; Don't Stop to Analyze

If something happens that you don't understand, wait until the tip is finished to null it over. Thinking about something that's over while you're still dancing is sure death. I speak from bitter personal experience.

6. Say, "Thanks!"

This seems sort of obvious but is often overlooked. Let people know you appreciate their help.

I recognize that this deliberate, reasoned approach is difficult to implement in the heat of battle. That doesn't mean, however, that we shouldn't strive to attain the ideal. The next time somebody becomes upset with your attempts at assistance, ask yourself where you might have fallen short. The next time you feel you did not receive the help that wanted, ask yourself whether you were clear in indicating your need. In this way, we can help each other to attain a new level of dancing pleasure.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – October 2021

*I hope you  
dance*

# On The Record SQUARES

Buddy Weaver  
www.BuddyWeaver.com  
buddy@buddyweaver.com

## IS THIS PIECE OF MUSIC FOR ME?

When listening to square dance music, the question that I ask has always been, is this piece of music for me? This article will walk you through the process that I have used for over thirty years when listening to square dance music.

The first thing I have always done is play the music without vocals first. I have found that hearing the vocal first often “colors” or filters how I feel about a song. It could be the word meter; it could be the pitch or tonality of the caller. I want a clean slate when shopping for a piece of music, so I want the music track first.

Playing the music, the first thing to do is listen’ don’t call, don’t sing. When you sing or call out loud, you might miss some very important musical highlights. It could be a lead instrument or a fill that is particularly good (or bad),

In the music, the first thing to identify is the rhythm. It was a solid beat that can be felt. That solid dance beat ensures my dancers, even those with hearing challenges, are able to keep time with the music. It also means that if I am tired after a long workday, I know the music will give me a solid beat so I can keep time in my calling. To check out how easy it is to find the beat, try this exercise – put the music on and see if you can pat your foot to the beat as soon as it starts, then pause and advance the music to some random spot play again and see if you immediately start patting with the beat. If you hesitate or find yourself searching for the beat, then the rhythm may be a challenge for your dancers too.

Next, listen for the tune. If it’s a singing call, the melody should be easy to recognize. Remember that the melody is played by an instrument, so if the instrument is played loudly then the tune is up-front but if it’s played softly or not at all, then you the caller will have to carry the tune. It is important to note that the singing call is for the dancers to enjoy. Music without a tune (just chords) will not engage the dancers. Now that you’ve identified the melody, listen for what instruments are playing. A variety of instruments will give the singing call a much more brilliant sound over the same instrument playing the

entire piece. This is not to say there isn't an appeal to a singing call where only one instrument is playing the tune throughout. It means the caller will have to work harder either in vocal technique or presentation skill to keep the singing call from sounding monotonous,

Now you are going to vocalize a bit with the singing call because you want to be sure the lead instrument (the instrument playing the tune) I going to sound good with your voice. Bear in mind that song with high notes will foremost callers to sing at the upper end of their range so you don't want an instrument like saxophone or fiddle, both play in high notes, to fight with your voice Dancers will not hear you over a competing musical instrument, which is fine if you are singing the chorus, but you want to be sure your calls are heard.

Now that you like the music, make sure the lyrics are acceptable as printed. You as the caller must know your audience. Lyrics with sexual tones or lyrics that celebrate drinking or smoking may find a limited audience in this century. If the lyrics may offend a few, can they be changed? Sometimes the best replacement lyrics are using Promenade home-related rhymes.

In closing, try to pick musical pieces with both shuffle and boom-chuck rhythms as the dancers love variety in their dance music. Choose different genres because in 2021 we have an explosion of square dance music from so many decades now being produced. This is the best time to be a caller.

Please visit [buddyweaver.com](http://buddyweaver.com) for previous articles/reviews. On Facebook through the following pages: Buddy Weaver and @buddyweavermusic.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – October 2021

## **All Things Considered**

By Ed Foote

### **How to Get Men to Attend a Club Introductory Night for New Dancers**

The following was printed in Behind the Mike a monthly note service for callers published by Barry Wonson in Australia. We all know that men are often reluctant to attend an Introductory Night. Here is how to get them to attend. Tell the4 man in question what square dancing can do for him. Tell him that:

- (1) It will make him smell fresher all day long
- (2) It will make him smell fresher all day long
- (3) It will make his grey hair turn dark again
- (4) It will make any bald spots disappear

- (5) It will relieve his tension headaches
- (6) It will turn dark-stained teeth to glistening white.
- (6) It will improve his car's fuel consumption by 30%
- (7) It will make his white shirts whiter without bleaching
- (8) It will make his muffler last a lifetime
- (9) It will allow him to live twice as long and get twice as much happiness as he gets twice as young each year
- (10) It will double his chances of winning the lottery
- (11) It will give him the opportunity to mix with the most wonderful people in the world
- (12) It will give him a Tarzan-like figure that will be envied by all
- (13) It will cause him to lose weight without having to diet
- (14) It will increase the number of push-ups he is able to complete by at least twice as much

If none of these do the job to persuade him, you could always try stretching the truth a bit.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – October 2021

### INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

(From the collection of Ed Foote)

“If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain” ...Emily Dickinson, American poet

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
...James Baldwin, American Novelist

“There is scarcely anything in the world that some man cannot make a little worse and ell a little more cheaply. The person who buys on price alone is this man's lawful prey.” ...James Ruskin

“Thanks to God that he gave me stubbornness when I know I am fight.” ...John Adams,  
President

## We are looking forward to seeing you in the Sew and Save/CREATE IT room!



### Open

Thursday and Friday 10:00 am till 4 pm

Saturday 10:00 am till 3 pm

### Educational Sessions

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Thursday: | Invisible Zippers Clinic<br>Spinning & Swirling Skirts Clinic |
| Friday:   | Piping Clinic<br>Bodices & Blouses Clinic                     |
| Saturday: | Fitting & Sewing Men's Shirts Clinic<br>Buttons & Hems Clinic |

Sign up in advance for Sew and Save/CREATE IT sessions  
on the Education tabs of the 71NSDC website.



"Join Us Down By The River"

for all the **right notes**



**The GHOST RIDERS  
SQUARE DANCE BAND**  
and your favorite callers.

Presented by the 71<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention®  
Evansville, IN. June 22-25, 2022  
Register at: [www.71nsdc.org](http://www.71nsdc.org).



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# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## Ghost Riders band to perform at 71<sup>st</sup> NSDC

EVANSVILLE — 71<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention®  
General Chairmen John and Carolyn Cook recently announced the Ghost  
Riders Square Dance Band will be performing at the convention, June  
22-25, 2022 in Evansville, Indiana.

This will be the 11<sup>th</sup> national convention the band has performed at  
in its 50 years of existence. The band was started in August, 1972 in  
Concord, California by Hal Langer. Hal wanted to square dance to live  
bands but it never worked out, so Hal decided to start his own band of  
square dancers. After some rehearsals, the Ghost Riders were born.

The band consists of five members, three who play guitar, a  
keyboard player, and a percussionist. If you have never danced to them,  
you are missing out on an experience you won't forget.

With the addition of the Ghost Riders, registration numbers for the  
convention keep rising. More than 1,000 dancers have committed to  
attend. As of late September, Indiana had the most registrants with 145,  
followed by Ohio with 101 and Texas with 64. Alabama, California, and  
Florida all had around 50 registrants or more.

There's still room for more! While the Doubletree Hotel is full,  
there are still plenty of hotels close to the Ford Center, the convention  
headquarters. The Courtyard By Marriott, Drury Inn and Suites, Hampton  
Inn, and Holiday Inn Express have more than 380 rooms combined  
available for the days of the convention, so what you are waiting for?  
Come join us Down the By River by visiting [71nsdc.org](http://71nsdc.org).

## 71<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention® Tours

**Tuesday, June 21, 2022**

### Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Time 8:00 am-5:00 pm central time Cost \$120.00

Rev up your engines! Travel by bus to the world-famous **Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum**, located inside the 2.5-mile oval of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. View the vehicles and artifacts that represent more than a century of Indianapolis 500 culture. Take the narrated Track Laps: "Kiss the bricks" bus tour. Ride around the track and stop to kiss the "yard of bricks".



**BOX LUNCH** on the bus is included in the tour price.

### Vincennes, Indiana

Time 8:30am - 4:30pm central time Cost \$105.00

This tour has something for everyone - humor, beauty, history, and good eats. Get ready to laugh while visiting the **Red Skelton Museum**. View memorabilia and videos of one of the funniest men in comedy.



### Grouseland Mansion

The Mansion was the home of future President William Henry Harrison when he was the territorial Governor. Visit this elegant Georgian/Federal home that houses the Indiana State Rifle.

### George Rogers Clark National Historical Park.

In 1779, an army of frontiersmen under the command of George Rogers Clark captured the British Fort Sackville, which guaranteed the control of an area of the frontier larger than the original 13 colonies.

Lunch at **DOGWOOD BARBEQUE.**

Salad Bar, Hot Buffet. Fried chicken is a favorite!

(Lunch cost is not included in tour price.)



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.

Distribution of the DANCERgram magazines is encouraged via forwarding or hard copies. All of the Magazines, as well as additional content, can be found at [www.dancergram.com](http://www.dancergram.com).

If you would like to receive the DANCERgram Magazines via email or you would like to submit information to any of the magazines, please contact the Editor at [sqdnfan@gmail.com](mailto:sqdnfan@gmail.com) or 863-224-3393.

#### DANCERgram Staff

Editor: Penny T. Green      Webmaster: Cliff Reiss

#### DANCERgram Magazines

**Planner** (weekly)

**Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies** (as needed)

**Directory** (as needed) • WC Key Contacts • WC Dances • SCCA • Links

**This and That** (monthly) • WCA president's message • Federation president's message • Club News • Reprint of articles • New Articles