

DANCERgram

April 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:



Our dance season in the West Coast Association area has finished, and the few snowbirds that did come down this year have headed back north. Hopefully, they will come back in the Fall to a full slate of dances.

All clubs, callers, and cuers, please forward their schedules for the next dance season and 2022 when finalized so that they can be added to the DANCERgram.

Strawberry Square currently has a Mainstream and Easy Plus dance on Wednesday nights, a Fun Plus dance on Friday afternoons, and an Advanced workshop and dance on Friday nights. There are also several Round dances, classes, and workshops throughout the week. Check their website at <https://www.strawberrysquaredancing.com> for a complete schedule.

Temple Twirlers is dancing on the 2nd and 4th Mondays through June.

The West Coast Association Executive Board is making plans to start the Membership Dances in the Fall. Watch future issues of the DANCERgram for details!

I hope we will all be back on the dance floor soon!

Penny Green, President

Square Dance Insurance

Has your club renewed their square dance insurance for 2021? Even if you didn't send your renewal in December 2020, you can still submit them at any time. The premium is \$4.85 per person, and you have to have 100% participation. There will be a gap in coverage from January 1, 2021, until the date you pay the premiums, but since you probably haven't been dancing during this time, it shouldn't cause a problem.

If your club has not been participating in the square dance insurance program, you might want to reconsider that decision. Bob Hagaman is the insurance chairman for the square dance insurance program. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact him at 352-382-2631 or rhagaman@tampabay.rr.com.



Crystal Lake Squares Crazy Socks Dance
March 21, 2021
Caller: Mike Gormley

Suncoast Squares announces their new website.

www.suncoastsquares.com

Round Dance Council of Florida Announces 2021/2022 Officers

The Round Dance Council held its annual elections at the Spring Weekend of Rounds in Plant City in February. The officers are:

Presidents: Tom and Cindy Bunn
Vice President: Fran Keller
Secretary: Earle and Carol Collins
Treasurer: Terri Wilaby

2022 Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention

LIGHTHOUSES #24 thru #28
Cosgrove Shoal Light, Pulaski Shoal Light
Rebecca Shoal Light
Tortugas Harbor Light & Dry Tortugas Lighthouse

#24 Cosgrove Shoal Light: This is one of two Lights erected in 1935. The other one is the Pulaski Shoal Light. Cosgrove Shoal Light, according to the Coast Guard records, is located about 20 miles southwest of Key West. The light is said to stand between 48 and 54 feet tall and was assembled on “piles,” which are rocky stones. At the present time, the structure is painted red with a flashing white light with a range of 9 miles out.

#25 Pulaski Shoal Light: This is the second light erected in 1935. It stands only 49 feet tall. The light was named after a Polish General, Casimir Pulaski, a hero who fought in the American Revolution. It is located about 30 miles northwest of Key West. At the present time, it is not known if the light is still operational.

#26 Rebecca Shoal Light: This lighthouse was built in 1879 but was not lit until 1886. It was a house-like structure on top of iron screw piles and had a black lantern at first. When the light was automated in 1925, with white light, it was determined that a “keeper’s quarters” would not be needed. In 1953 the dwelling was demolished because it had deteriorated so badly; however, it was eventually replaced with a modern light tower again with no keepers’ dwellings. However, Hurricane Charlie destroyed it completely and now no longer exists.

#27 & #28 Tortugas Harbor Lighthouse & Dry Tortugas Lighthouse: The Tortugas were named by Ponce de Leon during his many explorations in 1513. The first Lighthouse in the Dry Tortugas was at Garden Key, but it no longer exists and is now referred to as the “Old Tower.” The current lighthouse at Fort Jefferson on Garden Key is referred to as the “New Tower.” The Lighthouse is reported to stand 157 feet tall, and it is painted white halfway up and black to the top. It was lit in July 1857. It is still in existence and functional today.

Convention: 67th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention scheduled for March 4 & 5, 2022, is still in a “holding pattern.” No definite decisions have been made by the Daytona Convention Center, but we are still “INKED” in for those dates, so keep them open and in mind. Please “INK” them in on your calendars as well.

Judy Anderson, Publicity

Six White Doves

Hello friends! Here is SIX WHITE DOVES!! 7 months of extensive research...over 275 hours...I truly hope you enjoy it...You won't find it anywhere else!

I will be selling prints signed and numbered and also offering them on canvas...Leave me a message if you're interested

Please turn your sound up on your computer before you start this video!!

<https://www.facebook.com/dean.singleton.315/videos/915020765978543>

Six White Doves: Lee Kopman, Beryl Main, Jerry Haag, Marshall Flippo, Jerry Story, and Tim Marriner

CALLERLAB VIEWPOINTS

Note Services for Callers By Mike Seastrom

I was pleasantly surprised when I received a 6 by 9-inch Manilla envelope recently that had a return address that said CTP – Notes from Millville, New Jersey. I opened it to find a refreshing caller note service. Inside the envelope were twelve (8 by 11 ½ inch) sheets of caller information folded in half. I just held the sheets for a long while and smiled. I remembered that in my early years of calling, I subscribed to 3 or 4 of these note services every year and looked forward to every issue.

CTP stands for Caller Teaching Program, a Quarterly Note Service by Ralph Trout and John Calton, with inspiration from the late Wes Morris.

Ralph reminisces about Wes in his second-page commentary explaining that they used to call Wes “Mr. Chicken Plucher” (ask your caller about that term). Wes liked to move dancers all around the floor in as many quadrants as possible with alternating hand movements and good body flow. Ralph adds how

much Wes is missed as he one of the best minds when it came to choreography and smooth dancing.

Ralph comments that they are working hard to produce a note service for newer callers and provide material for experienced callers that will help square dancing in the future. He adds that they are making it a quarterly note service to save on postage costs and provide plenty of material to work on for three months at a time.

I like Ralph's next comment that all choreography calls and combinations of callers are "NOT" copyrightable. Callers will see some things that they recognize or have heard before as they, like most of us, have traded many fun dance routines over the years with each other or copied material as new calls came out. He adds that this information will be new to some callers, and experienced callers will be reminded of choreography they had not called in a long time.

In the final paragraph of his commentary, Ralph wisely adds that it's time we all set aside our differences, build square dancing, and share this great American heritage with many more people. I agree that working together will build our clubs and bring more new callers into our activity too.

John Carlton also provides a short commentary and explains that each issue will highlight a move from the Basic, Mainstream, and Plus Programs. They will also add some fun moves from the past, experimental moves as they find them, interesting et-ins, get-outs, and stir-the-bucket routines.

This is a current note service you can hold in your hand, and if you would like more information on CTP – Notes and their CTP Books, please contact Ralph Tout at Ralphht2@yahoo.com.

For many years, a featured article called "Creative Choreography" has been written by Steve and Lee Kopman in American Square Dance Magazine. Steve continues that tradition today. Many thanks to the Kopmans for their vast contributions to our dance and the art of calling.

New and experienced callers in years past have been blessed with caller note services that came out each month. Many of us looked forward to reading these educational notes from some of the real icons in the calling world. Most of our written material is now on the computer.

If one goes to the CALLERLAB website (www.callerlab.org) and clicks on the "For Callers" link, then scroll down to the Knowledge Database, you can open the door to what I believe is a magical resource for callers and dance leaders alike.

In the Knowledge Database, you can type "choreography" in the search bar, and it will take you to an area that holds most of the scanned issues of more than five of our classic note services of the past. It is a wonderful resource area for new and experienced callers alike. Check it out, and I guarantee you will be

amazed and delighted. I tip my hat to Barry Casper, Dottie Welch, and their crew for making these precious gems of information available to all of us.

It's almost beyond comprehension to me that most of us carry the entire "public library" around in our hands every day. If you want to know something, just ask your phone. Sadly, your phone or computer is just not like holding a piece of paper or being with people at a dance, I can handle the paper part, but I can hardly wait for us to get together and dance again!

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – March 2021

On the Record – SQUARES

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WHAT IS SSD DANCE (PART II)

SSD – Social Square Dancing is grabbing the interests of clubs and associations everywhere. There are currently dozens of zoom meetings taking place online every month, with the sole topic of adapting SSD as the main dance program. Discussions are held at dance association meetings, caller meetings, and national dancer associations. Overwhelmingly, the response is favorable to SSD become THE DANCE LEVEL for all clubs.

What is SSD? Some folks have remarked that it is a "dumbing down" of what they danced pre-pandemic, while others have remarked they were Mainstream dancers and didn't feel they could keep up with SSD. Two opposite sides of the spectrum.

The idea behind SSD is a dance destination that would take weeks instead of months for a brand new dancer to become a full club member. This is not a new idea. At the peak of our Modern Western Square Dance activity, lasses lasted around ten weeks for folks to go from newbie to full club member. While most current dancers feel we can never return to the dancer numbers of our hey-dey, many more believe that when we come back post-pandemic, we will need a quicker entry – like SSD – to survive.

Contrary to what some doubters have expressed, SSD is not any kind of step down. From firsthand experience, this writer will tell you it is a lively program that allows for many more opportunities to entertain dancers that we have had. By using fewer calls in the overall program, dancers are able to master the calls, dance them without hesitation, and be delighted in having those calls used in creative ways. Instead of squares breaking down over a dancer not remembering one of a hundred calls, squares move smoothly. Wind in your

face dancing – that glorious feeling of being married to the music – can only be accomplished by not breaking down and not stopping every other call waiting for someone to catch up. Something veteran callers have discussed for many years has been trying to get our dancers to move smoothly with the music and SSD; many finally provide a way to achieve this.

Podcast episodes may be downloaded free of charge. For more information on SSD, please send me an email at buddy@buddyweaver.com, and I will help you.

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CALLERLAB VIEWPOINTS

Social Square Dancing: A Clearer Understanding

The past year has brought about a great deal of discussion within the Modern Western Square Dance community. A majority of this discussion has been about the implementation of the CALLERLAB Social Square Dancing (SSD) program, as a path toward rebuilding Modern Western Square Dancing for future generations. It is now time to clarify some things regarding this line of discussion before certain misconceptions about SSD lead to widespread misadventure.

The biggest misconception currently associated with the SSD program is the idea that it is simply a shorter, modified list of calls that provides dancers with a faster 12-week entry level into our activity. While this may be true, it is only one of many links in the chain that is SD. The following paragraphs will provide the missing links that have been too frequently overlooked by callers and dancers seeking to implement Social Square Dancing,

Modern Western Square Dancing is a mostly couples-based, technical dance program that is deeply rooted in the CALLERLAB Basic, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, and Challenge lists. Clubs are typically run by a set of officers who encourage traditional dress, a preferred level of dancing above entry-level Mainstream, and marketing to a particular age demographic of empty nesters over the age of 60. The resulting product appeals to a very narrow demographic of hobbyists within the population and limits any type of exponential growth. Dancers do not regularly attend Modern Western Square Dance clubs or events as a family function, social function, or to find a compatible mate. They attend to be part of the hobby and a particular program.

The general public approaches and views dancing from a different perspective. This is where SD comes into play. It provides a high-energy, caller-driven, social, and dynamic entertainment event for all ages, lifestyles, and interests regardless of marital status, social status, or family status. SSD is a completely

different brand of modern folk dancing like contra, or traditional squares. It is specifically designed to appeal to the general public. A shorter list of calls is only part of that appeal.

Social Square Dancing is a fast-paced, dance-oriented program that relies heavily on an entertaining caller, a dynamic music selection, engaged dancers, and an ever-growing base of new dancers to rebuild America's first social network, square dancing. SD encourages flourishes, individual expression, extended applications of the calls family participation, and a strong sense of community. It discourages things like traditional dress code requirements, Yellow Rocks, bumping in the middle during promenade Half, or pressing dancers into other programs.

Now, I have no doubt there are some who would disagree with the description of SSD that I have provided here. However, I currently call for three successful Social Square Dance groups that were started from scratch. My perspective comes from experience. At the end of the day, SSD represents a new square dance counterculture that is not part of the Modern Western Square Dance community.

Now that we have a better understanding of what Social Square Dancing is, a more informed decision about whether this program is right for you and your club can be made. Start by considering the following points and whether your plan accounts for them.

- 1. Accessibility:** Make sure your program is accessible, year-round, to the public. There are several ways to accomplish this, such as multi-cycle classes or learn as you go contra style instruction.
- 2. Adaptability:** Be ready to adapt your program to meet the needs of your group if necessary Use modern music for a modern audience, youth music for a youth audience, more traditional music for an older audience, etc.
- 3. Dynamic Entertainment:** Social Square Dancing is an entertaining, dance-based, high-energy, social event. Every tip should have a singing call, no exceptions! If you disagree with this, don't even try this program. There are two parts to a square dance tip⁹. If we don't use singing calls, we are shortchanging the dancers.
- 4. Network Marketing:** Encourage new dancers to bring their friends and family when they return the following week. Offer family, student, and group discounts for returning dancers or groups.
- 5. Hold the high ground:** Make dancers realize that you offer the entertainment and social activity they are looking for, and there is value in your efforts. Stop looking like a desperate square dance club that will do anything to get people in the door.
- 6. Utilization of Brand Marketing Over Product Marketing:** Social Square Dancing is a different brand than Modern Western Square Dancing. It provides a different product for a much broader

demographic. SSD groups need to establish a clear distinction between the two brands before they can successfully market their product to the public.

Callers and clubs must decide what is important to them moving forward. Is it more dancers that you want, or do you want to preserve the hobby that is Modern Western Square Dancing? Whatever the decision, there is no right or wrong answer; only what is necessary for your survival. Social Square Dancing is not an agent of division; it is an agent of change and a testament to diversity, which remains at the center of American cultural identity.

Shawn Brown has been calling since 2010 and has called in 20 states. He has recorded over 60 square dance records on Gold Rush Records including guest vocals on the Lou Mac and Silver Sounds labels, Shawn is dedicated to preserving square dancing for the future and has been actively using the SD New Dancer curriculum for a while now.

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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

By Ed Foote

“The time is always right to do what is right.” ...Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle you might know nothing about.” ...Adriana Solarova

“If I have learned anything in life, it is that bitterness consumes the vessel that contains it.” ...Rubin Hurricane Carter, professional boxer

“Being spiritual means being at peace and being of service. ...Ben Stein, author and political commentator

“Whenever you are not wholly joyous, it is because you have reacted with a lack of love.” ...A Course In Miracles, book

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All Things Considered

By Ed Foote

CAN THE DEAF SQUARE DANCE? YES!

We are not talking about one deaf person in a square of hearing dancers – we are talking about a full square of all deaf people. Here is how it is done.

The caller must be fluent in sign language. For the initial lesson, the caller stands in the middle of the square and teaches via sign language. Once the fundamentals are understood by everyone, the caller moves outside the square and continues to call via sign language.

Instead of everyone having to have their head turned toward the caller, the dance hall has a mirror on all 4 walls, similar to a ballet studio. So, if the dancers have their back to the caller, all they have to do is look straight ahead at the mirror in front of them. At most, they have to turn their head 90 degrees to see the mirror or the caller.

But this is the old way. The new way is to have a television camera focused on the caller, with a monitor on each of the other 3 walls. Now the dancers can see the caller doing sign language no matter which way they are facing.

What about music? Music with a heavy beat is needed. The dancers can feel the vibration of the beat, if it is strong enough. Also, hearing aids have now become so sophisticated that they can be hooked up to an amplifier, enabling dancers to feel the beat directly in their ears via FM modulation.

I learned all this from caller Tom Mallory, from the Rochester, N.Y. area, who passed away in 2014 and called for deaf people off and on for 30 years.

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72nd National Square Dance Convention®

Ya'll Come Dance & Play on Mobile Bay



We are excited to see dancing “slowly” start resuming in some areas around the country, as well as here in our own state of Alabama. We are raring to get back to dancing and promoting the 72nd National Square Dance Convention®. We hope that during our upcoming travels we have the opportunity to meet and dance with many of you (eventually), and personally invite you to attend our **Party Gras in 2023!** Our National Square Dance Convention® will not only be a terrific dance event - it will also be one heck of a **DANCE PARTY** that you won’t want to miss!

Team Mobile is shooting for the stars to make our Party Gras fabulous, unique, and ultimately satisfying! Our team has this one chance to get everything right - to ensure that this is a NSDC you won’t soon forget! We fully understand when hosting a NSDC there are no do-overs and no second chances. Knowing this, our entire Team is working hard to pull out all the stops this far in advance to make certain we are fully prepared. We are eagerly crossing our t’s and dotting our i’s to ensure everything is geared up in June of 2023 for your enjoyment!

On that same note, you only get one shot as well! When this one is over and all your friends and fellow dancers are talking about the marvelous time they had, the exceptional callers and cuers they danced to, and incessantly relishing on how amazing their experience was – you won’t have a second chance either! **Our Party Gras is a once in a lifetime event!** We promise you won’t regret it! So, go on ahead and register now at www.72nsdc.com/register-now



Even though it’s a year away, we are including our Pre-Convention Kick-Off Dance flyer in this issue so you can go ahead and **SAVE THE DATE!** This dance will be held in our beautiful Mobile Convention Center in the same dance hall that we will use as the Live Band Hall each night of our 72nd NSDC. So here is a chance to check it all out in-person before the main event! We have three phenomenal callers lined up for our Kick-Off Dance: Jack Pladdys, Scott Bennett, & Tony Oxendine! When these three combine forces, they are sure to provide an **OUTSTANDING** evening of square dancing, accompanied with some magnificent round dancing cued by Alabama’s own Tim Eun. This one-night dance is **ONLY \$50 PER PERSON** and includes **FREE ADMISSION** to the 72nd National Square Dance Convention®! 😊

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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71st NSDC's host city is packed with things to do

Obviously people come to square dance conventions to dance, but don't forget to get out into the host city of Evansville and see what this gem on the Ohio River has to offer.

If you're looking for history, the question isn't where to find it, but what era. Angel Mounds State Historic Site is recognized as one of the best-preserved Native American sites in the United States. It has 12 earthen mounds built for ceremonial and residential purposes scattered around its 100 acres.

Evansville was also an armory for the United States during WWII, and that heritage is celebrated at the Evansville Wartime Museum. It houses an authentic P-47 airplane, Tarheel Ha, among other artifacts.

Learn about one of the nation's first housing projects, built under Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, at the Evansville African American Museum.

Movie history was made at Bosse Field, where the film "A League of Their Own," was made. The field offers tours of its facility.

If animals are more your speed, try the Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden. The zoo extends over 45 acres and includes more than 700 animals. Be sure to check out Amazonia, a walk through a South American rainforest.

If you're feeling lucky, check out Tropicana's Riverfront Event Center. It has a 24-hour casino, as well as some of the best views of the Ohio River in the city. For more information on the 71st NSDC, see 71nsdc.org.

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.

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 sgdncfan@gmail.com or 863-224-3393.

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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