

**New Dancers**  
Crosstrailers Square Dance Club  
Warren, Ohio

We have enjoyed thirty-seven new dancers (students) for lessons this year ..... thirty-seven! Our lesson nights have ten to eleven squares, and yes, they are a bit noisy with all the laughter and fellowship.

When we polled our new dancers to see what brought them to our lessons and squares, thirty-seven came because of a personal invite; one couple found our club on the Internet. Sixteen new dancers said they had previously seen a demo; four had seen a flyer at a fair; and four read our article in the local newspaper. However, this did not bring them to our lessons .... it was the personal invitation that brought them to lessons.

Our new dancers receive a welcome handout explaining a little about our club and its officers, the federation, the necessary commitment to classes, square dance clothing, square dancing life after graduation, and other pertinent information. Most of this information is also given in announcements, but as we all know, we are not all good listeners.

We also offer our new dancers copies of our club calendar, membership lists, etc., letting them know they are an important part of our club.

Many of our members who brought new dancers have become mentors, so to speak. They angel at all lessons and encourage the new dancers, sharing squares with their new dancers; they pick them up and bring them to lessons often; they encourage them to attend the dances for new dancers and enjoy the dances with them. We have found our "mentored" dancers are more likely to continue lessons, enjoy more dances, be active in club activities, and become accomplished square dancers.

When new dancers miss lessons, we call to inquire if everything is okay, and let them know we miss them. If they need to miss a few lessons for any reason, we get a group of square dancers together in our homes and bring the dancers up to date on the calls they have missed.

We are fortunate to have a summer workshop at our dance location, and we encourage our new dancers to attend this workshop to further their skills. Some of our angels enjoy this workshop as well.

We will loose some new dancers as a few migrate south, life's personal problems change priorities, and various reasons. These new dancers are encouraged to return in the fall for another class, and contact is again made before a new class begins.

The bottom line is the personal invitation is very important in recruiting new dancers; the personal touch is very important in maintaining our new dancers as they become accomplished square dancers.

At our dances and lesson nights we have noticed couples sharing thoughts on a movie they have seen, a few ladies sharing recipes, couples sharing prices of SUVs .... people sharing. We square dancers share a wonderful fellowship in this fun, healthy activity, but do we share our love of square dancing with others? As much as we love square dancing, one would think we would share our love of square dancing with anyone that was willing to listen and end up with packed lesson nights. How can we keep this wonderful activity to ourselves?

We love this wonderful fellowship we share! Let's share it with everyone!

Submitted by: Margie McCummins