



A publication of

**The Committee for Community  
Dance of  
CALLERLAB**

The International Association  
of  
Square Dance Callers

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## **The Staff Is Set For The Beginner Party Leader's Seminar**

The staff for this year's Beginner Party Leader's Seminar has been finalized. The following subjects have been chosen.

### **Introduction to Prompting & Cuing -- Cal Campbell**

A practical examination of the organization of music commonly used for square dancing, contra dancing, etc. The session will include numerous examples. The participants will be encouraged to take advantage of practice exercises that will enhance their ability to use different kinds of music. Square dance callers who have never been exposed to this information will find it will enhance their calling abilities.

### **The Modern Western Square Dance Caller and Beginner Parties -- Jim Mayo**

Under the right circumstances, it takes very little square dance terminology to entertain new dancers. The average square dance caller usually has the knowledge and can present a very successful party.

### **Dance Parties for Middle School and High School Students -- Otto Warteman**

The session will explore dances suitable to Middle and High School age students. This is an often chaotic environment that requires special techniques.

### **The Art of the Quick Teach -- Bob Riggs**

Most dance actions, useful in beginner parties, can be communicated with very few words. Bob will demonstrate how to accomplish this communication process with carefully chosen words, actions, and demonstrations.

### **Father/daughter Dances -- Gerry Hardy**

Dance parties for father/daughter nights for organizations such as the Girl Scout and the Indian Princesses provide the ideal opportunity to introduce both generations to the fun. These parties require special skills to meet both the needs of the adults and the children.

### **Mixers for Beginners -- Stew Shacklette**

This session explores several dance mixers that have proven to be useful at beginner parties.

### **Dances With Only Seven Basics -- Cal Campbell (Moderator)**

A Round Table Discussion on how to lead a dance with only seven basics. *Circle L/R, Single File Promenade, Couple Promenade, Arm Turns, Stars, DoSaDo & A Wild Card* (Any one additional basic of your choice.) Everyone is encouraged to bring material to present.

### **Special Event Dances -- Mona Cannell**

The session examines dances for special groups such as historical re-enactment groups. Dances that are specialized to a particular time period or historical event.

### **Adapting to Different Dance Situations -- Greg Anderson**

Beginner Dance Parties are sometimes held in difficult environments that require some adaptation of the dance material. This often requires a lot of imagination.

### **Easy Line Dances -- Chuck Jaworski**

There are many line dances that can be learned in 3-5 minutes. Chuck and Becky will teach several of them.

### **Music From the Canadian View -- Andy Pennock**

Andy will explore different music that can be used for Beginner Parties. This includes music not normally thought of as acceptable for beginner parties.

**NOTE -- If you know of people who should be made aware of this seminar, please relay this information to Calvin Campbell at 343 Turf Lane, Castle Rock, CO 80108 or [cal@eazy.net](mailto:cal@eazy.net).**

### A Dream Gig, Or Is It?

Bob Riggs

You receive a call asking if you are interested in leading a dance during a high school's home coming week. A dialog ensues and you cover the important questions. How many kids will be attending? About 200. Where will the event be held? The school gym. How big is the gym? Four full size volleyball courts. Will other activities be included in the evening? None, except a pie eating contest at the end. What kind of dancing are they thinking of? A square dance, however there appears to be little expectation of what that really means.

The result of this conversation is an agreement that you will lead a dance on the specified date, at the school, with about 200 kids between the ages of 15 and 18, for two hours starting at 7:00 pm, for the agreed to compensation.

Immediately after ending the call, your next thought is, "What material do I have that I can use for this age group and in this setting?" Planning proceeds and you're ready.

When you enter the gym, volleyball practice is in full swing and they don't expect to be done until 7:00 pm. That's OK, but the organizers are nervous that they will not be ready to go at 7:00 pm. You discover the gym is really big (but you came prepared) and begin the setup with the larger amplifier and additional speakers that you brought; sometimes dodging a ball rolling in your direction.

After you setup and the practice is over (they did finish before 7:00 pm. There was no need to worry) the kids begin to arrive. You notice that most of the boys hang out with each other and the girls are together too. Some are paired, but not many. They are hanging out near the door of the gym and not coming in.

The time arrives to start so you call for everyone to come in and make a

big circle. You don't start with a partner because it might put them off. You start with Circle Left and Right and watch in amazement as the circle is moving at a speed not seen at regular square dances. So much energy. After Circle Left, Circle Right, Forward and Back and a quick run through the snake (Spiral wind and unwind - Please ask for details if you haven't seen this introduction to dancing.) you have everyone go get a partner and return to the circle.

Now you notice that many of the boys are paired with boys and girls with girls. You don't panic, because you know how to handle this and still let them have a great time.

The evening proceeds with a variety of material that suits the event and concludes with the affore mentioned pie eating contest. The Seniors win this year.

So! What skills would you need before you arrive at an event like this? Are all events the same? What material (music & dances) would you need? What sound equipment do you need? How do you dress? How do you communicate with the sponsors to eliminate any communication problems?

These are questions that I'll attempt to answer, from my perspective, during a series of articles to appear in future issues of the CD Journal.

*Editor's Note -- Bob Riggs is the vice chairman of the Committee for Community Dance. He can be reached at RLRiggs@AOL.com*

### LSF Archives To Move Denver University

The University of Denver in Denver, Colorado will become the new home for the Lloyd Shaw Foundation Archives. The collection will be managed as part of the Carson-Brierly Library of Dance within the Penrose Library on the DU Campus.

This arrangement will provide for the long term preservation of square dance related material. Everything will be cataloged into the Penrose Library computer system. Much of the material will be made available for check out.

#### **Beginner Dance Party Leader's Seminar Registration**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail

Partners are invited to attend at no additional cost.

**Send registration & \$25.00 to:**

Calvin Campbell  
343 Turf Lane  
Castle Rock, CO 80108

**Checks should be made out to:**

Calvin Campbell

### Square Dance

When you call for father/daughter parties, you need to plan on keeping the fathers in close proximity to the daughters. You also need to do dance figures that give the daughters a very visual role or pattern to follow. This following dance routine make use of the idea of going through tunnels. In this case, the daughter goes through the tunnel and the father goes around the outside. This makes it a lot easier on the dad.

**Join hands & Circle Left...  
Circle Right back to home...  
1st couple Circle Two Hands  
Around...  
The other couples make an  
arch... (Two hand arch)  
First girl through the tunnel...  
Go back the other way...  
Everybody Promenade...**

With kids, the simple things work the best. I don't worry about which way they go through the tunnel. Some will go one way and some will go the other way.

I've also used this same tunnel idea in big circles composed of six to ten pairs. There is no way to identify a numbered position, but you can pick out things like the tallest girl, or someone wearing a hat. If nothing else, just let the dads pick out who takes the next turn.

### CD Journal Is Now Electronic

If you wish to receive your CD Journal via e-mail as a .pdf file then contact the CALLERLAB home office at CALLERLAB@AOL.com. Please consider this as an option. It means a great savings in postage over a year's time.

Back copies of the CDP Journal will eventually also be made available as .pdf files.

### Circle Dance

People who schedule father/daughter dances often rebook the same caller year after year. You will sometimes see the same fathers coming through with one daughter after another for sometimes as long a five to seven years. Most of the girls are in the 6-9 age range. The kids enjoy doing the same things year after year, but the fathers want a little more variety. Sometimes it takes a little innovation to come up with something that is simple enough that all the kids can do it and still find something that keeps the fathers involved.

There is an old children's song that most kids learn sometime in school that can be adapted to the father/daughter situation. It's called Bingo. It's usually done with no recorded music. Everyone just singing. The words go like this.

**1-8 A big black dog sat on the porch and Bingo was his name.**  
*Everyone Promenade around the room in a big circle.*

**9-16 A big black dog sat on the porch and Bingo was his name.**  
*Keep Promenading.*

**17-24 B--I--NGO, B--I--NGO,**  
*The dancers stop and face the center of the hall. The father stands still and the daughter or daughters run around him.*

**25-32 B--I--NGO, and Bingo was his name.**  
*The daughters continue to run around dad.*

Now comes the fun part. I usually work in the middle of the hall with a wireless mic. In the next part of the song there is a slow spelling of the name of the dog. As they spell each letter, the girls stalk toward the middle of the hall saying, **B---I---N---G**. On the last letter of **O**, every girl turns and runs back to dad. I encourage the fathers to pick them up and swing them around.

By the time the dance is in the third chorus, the girls are crowded around me in the middle of the hall by the time we get to N. It's great fun. I usually cover my head in mock fright. Instead of saying O, I uncover my head and yell GO.

If you don't happen to know the tune, ask almost any elementary school teacher or even some of the children. I'm sure you will quickly find someone who can sing the tune. If this doesn't work, give me a call. I'll sing it to you over the telephone. Believe me, you won't forget the tune once I do. (Calvin Campbell 303-790-7921.)

**We need volunteers to help at the Beginner Party Leader's Seminar. If you can help setup and run sound equipment, run a camcorder, minidisk player, or help with registration, let Cal know at cal@eazy.net.**

**We also need to reach out to the teachers and recreation department personnel in the San Antonio Area. If you know of anyway to contact these people let Cal know.**

**Kids Contra**

**Beginner  
Dance  
Party Leaders  
Seminar**

**April 12 & 13, 2003  
Omni San Antonio Hotel  
San Antonio, TX  
Cost \$25.00 per person**

**Learn to teach and lead  
parties for people of all  
ages who have never  
danced before.**

**Easy  
Square Dances  
Contra Dances  
Line Dances  
Mixers & More**

**For More Information  
Contact  
Calvin Campbell  
343 Turf Lane  
Castle Rock, Co 80108  
cal@eazy.net**

**Please Copy the above  
ad and send to a friend  
or a teacher or someone  
in the recreation depart-  
ment in your city**

I often deal with groups of children who are attending some event with their fathers. It varies from Girl Scouts or Indian Princesses Father/Daughter banquets to camp outs and church functions. I find that it works better to keep the dance routines short and uncomplicated and to keep the children from getting too far away from the spot on the dance floor where they started the dance, until they know the routine very well.

As a result of this observation, I don't recommend doing a Cast to the Foot or a Reel in a contra dance for this age group. They are just not very successful in these environments. The following contra dance routine seems to work very well

**Kids Contra  
Calvin Campbell**

**Formation:** Contra Lines. Pairs of any gender combination. No more than 10-12 pairs per set. Put the father's in the line on the prompter's right.

**CD:** Dancing for Busy People (January 7 Jig)

**Prompts**

*Intro* - - - - , - - *Forward & Back*  
**1-8** - - - - , - - **Forward & Back Again**  
**9-16** - - - - , - - **Right Arm Turn**  
**17-24** - - - - , - - **Left Arm Turn**  
**25-32** - - **Make a Tunnel**, - - **Down Thru the Tunnel**  
**33-64** - - - - , - - - - , - - - - , - - - -  
 - - - - , - - - - , - - - - , - - **Forward & Back**

**Description**

- 1-8 Long lines go Forward and Back.
- 9-16 Long lines go Forward and Back again.
- 17-24 Turn the opposite Right Hand Around.
- 25-32 Turn the opposite Left Hand Around.
- 33-40 Everyone else, but the top couple, make a long tunnel by joining both hands with the opposite and making an arch.
- 41-64 The top couple goes down through the tunnel and stops at the foot of the set. At the same time, all the other dances move one place toward the head of the set.

Note -- Once the dancers have the idea of the routine down, then I start sending 2 and then 3 couples down the tunnel with a four beat pause between couples. Very soon, you will find the kids waiting at the head of the set, poised for you to say "Go!". It's great fun and still gives you very good crowd control.

**See you in San Antonio**