



A publication of the  
**Committee for  
Community and Traditional Dance**  
of  
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of  
Square Dance Callers

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## 2014 BDPLS and Convention Welcome Dance Plans

### **Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar**

We invite anyone interested in presenting Beginner Dance Parties to attend the annual seminar organized by the Committee for Community and Traditional Dance. This unique opportunity is held each year just prior to the CALLERLAB Convention. The BDPLS is always an invigorating opportunity to dance, discuss, and carry away choreography for party, community, and limited basic dances.

The 15th Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar (BDPLS) will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, and end at 1 p.m. on Sunday April 13, 2014. This event will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino and Resort in Sparks (Reno), Nevada. Registration is \$50 and should be done through the Home Office.

The schedule this year will include the following sessions. There will also be opportunities for you to present a dance, so come prepared to share something, or to try something new.

Genderless Dancing — Calvin Campbell

Daughter/Parent Party — Ron Black

Party Program — Chris Pinkham

Circle Ideas — Susan Morris

Community Dance — Paul Moore

Planning — Bob Riggs

Ideas from Traditional Dances — Dottie Welch

### **Convention Welcome Dance**

On Sunday, April 13th from 3 to 5 p.m., the Committee for Community and Traditional Dance will be hosting the Convention Welcome Dance. This is open to all those arriving to attend the 41st CALLERLAB Convention.

All interested leaders are encouraged to present a dance appropriate for a Beginner Square Dance Party or a Community Dance. Please come early to sign up or contact the MC, Bob Riggs, to arrange a scheduled time at [bob@SquareDanceEtc.com](mailto:bob@SquareDanceEtc.com).

### **Inside This Issue**

This issue of the *CD Journal* features dances that were presented during the 2013 BDPLS in Raleigh, North Carolina. They include three types of Contra Dances (Proper Lines, an Alternate Duple and a Sicilian Circle), a big circle Mixer, and three Square Dance ideas.

"I'm A Star" and the Modern Square Dance ideas are the easiest. "Kiwi Ring" and "George and Amber's Wedding" require some footwork and orientation. "Mandolin Contra" and the "Arkansas Traveler" include Swing which can cause confusion especially for genderless situations. These dances use just a few basic calls and some simple footwork or walking paths to provide lots of variety.

## Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar 2014

April 12 & 13, 2014 in Sparks (Reno), Nevada

Gather material and enhance your ability to successfully lead party, community, or a limited basic square dance.

## Proper Contra

### I'm a Star

By Calvin Campbell

**Usage:** This is a four call dance designed for very new dancers and is particularly appropriate for dancers in elementary school.

**Formation:** Contra lines of partners facing each other.

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

**57-64** - - - -; **Forward & Back;**

**1-8** - - - -; **Forward & Back;**

**9-16** - - - -; **Turn Partner Right;**

**17-24** - - - -; **Turn Partner Left;**

**25-32** - - - -; **Top 2 strut down;**

**33-40** - - - -; **Same 2 return;**

**41-64** - - - -; **Top 2 "be stars" as they go down to the bottom;**

#### Description:

1-8 Long lines go forward 3 steps and touch, then backup 3 and touch.

9-16 Repeat beats 1-8.

17-24 Partners turn by the right arm for 8 beats.

25-32 Partners turn by the left arm for 8 beats ending back at their home spot.

33-40 Partners sashay or strut down the center for 8 beats.

41-48 Partners sashay back or turn alone and strut back to the top in 8 beats.

49-64 Same pair "Be Stars" as they dance down the center to the bottom (creativity encouraged).

#### **Variation if the line is long:**

Designate two or three pairs at the top to sashay simultaneously and then to be stars.

## Circle Mixer

### Kiwi Ring

A Scottish Country Dance Mixer from New Zealand  
Presented by Chris Pinkham

**Formation:** A big circle of couples facing the center of the hall with the lady on the gent's right.

**Music:** "Kiwi Ring", Lloyd Shaw E-40 (special 80-count jig) (Omit the last 16 beats of the dance if 64-count music is used.)

**Usage:** This is a beautiful and simple dance using only three basics and some simple add on concepts. If there might be some gender confusion, it is recommended that you use some item for gender identification such as neckties on the "gents". Demonstration is the best way to teach the figure of eight.

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

**72-80** - - - -; - - **Circle Left;**

**1-8** - - - -; - - **Circle Right;**

**9-16** - - - -; - - **Ladies Around Gents;**

**17-24** (to left in front of partner, then in front of corner);

**25-32** - - - -; - - **Gents Around Ladies;**

**33-40** (to right in front of partner, then in front of corner);

**40-48** - - - -; **Clap Twice, Stamp Twice;**

**49-56** **Pass by the Right; Clap Twice, Stamp Twice;**

**57-64** **Pass by the Left; Clap Twice, Stamp Twice;**

**65-72** **Pass by the Right; Clap Twice, Stamp Twice;**

**72-80** **Pass by the Left; - - Circle Left;**

#### Description:

1-8 All join hands and Circle Left for eight steps.

9-16 All Circle Right for eight steps.

17-32 The ladies dance a "figure of eight" around the standing men (first their partner and then their corner). Ladies begin moving to their left in front of their partner and around him returning to place. Then they go in front of their corner and around him returning to place.

33-48 The gents dance a "figure of eight" around the standing ladies (first their partner and then their corner). Gents begin moving to the right in front of partner and around her returning to place. Then they go in front of their corner and around her returning to place.

49-56 Partners turn to face each other. They clap their own hands twice, then stamp right foot twice, then join right hands and pass each other by in four steps.

57-64 Repeat the hand claps and stamps, join left hands and pass each other by in four steps.

65-72 Repeat counts 49-56.

73-80 Repeat counts 57-64.

## Alternate Duple Contra

### Mandolin Contra

By Glen Nickerson, Washington

**Source:** Dance presented at BDPLS 2013 by Susan Morris who inherited Glen's notes. The dance was created by Glen in the 1970s as a variation on "Banjo Contra" by Jerry Helt.

**Formation:** Alternate Duple Contra Lines (Partners facing with 1, 3, 5, etc. crossed over placing the gent in the left line)

**Music:** "Mandolin Contra", Lloyd Shaw 332

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

57-64 - - - -; - - **Dosado;**

1-8 - - - -; - - **Banjo Wheel to Ladies back-to-back in center;**

9-16 - - - -; - - **Heel and Toe (to Gent's left then right);**

17-24 - - - -; - - **Heel and Toe (to Gent's left then right);**

25-32 - - - -; - - **Dosado;**

33-40 - - - -; - - **Swing;**

41-48 - - - -; **Each Four Circle Left;**

49-56 - - - -; **Star Left to new corner;**

57-64 - - - -; - - **Dosado;**

#### Description:

1-8 Corners Dosado (pass right, slide back-to-back, backup).

9-16 Same dancers join both hands in Butterfly (hands up palm to palm and out to side), step slightly to the left to place right hip to right hip, walk forward around each other. End with the ladies back-to-back in the center.

17-24 Gents start with the right and ladies with the left foot to touch the floor with their heel, then with their toe, then step to the side, close with the other foot, and step to the side again. Repeat this using the opposite foot.

25-32 Repeat counts 17—24.

33-40 Same two dancers Dosado.

41-48 Same two dancers Swing ending with the lady on the right and facing in as a couple.

49-56 Each four dancers Circle Left for 8 beats.

57-64 Same four dancers Star Left to a new Corner.

**The original "Banjo Contra" differs as follows:** Omit the Dosado and begin with Banjo Wheel (8); then reverse direction for a Sidecar return (8); Face up and down for the heel and toe.

#### To find back issues of the *CD Journals* on the Website:

From the home page, select "Documents/General", then *Community Dance Journals* from the list at the right.

The *CD Journal Index* is located in Dance Program Documents, Community Dance Program.

## Sicilian Circle

### George & Amber's

### Wedding

By Dottie Welch

**Usage:** This is a simple use of heel and toe choreography.

**Formation:** Sicilian Circle (facing couples like spokes of a wheel in a big circle).

**Music:** "Year End Two-Step and Rollstone" on Southerners Plus 2, or a good heel and toe jig.

#### Prompts:

*Intro or*

57-64 - - - -; - - **Heel and Toe;**

1-8 - - - -; - - **Again;**

9-16 - - - -; **Same 2 Dosado;**

17-24 - - - -; **All 4 Circle Left;**

25-32 - - - -; - - **Circle Right;**

33-40 - - - -; - - **Veer Right;**

41-48 - - **Veer Left; Two-hand Right-hip Turn;**

49-56 - - - -; **Left-hip Turn;**

57-64 - - - -; - - **Heel and Toe;**

#### Description:

Most actions are the same as for "Mandolin Contra". Dance the heel and toe with opposite.

Veers: Partner pairs move diagonally right and forward so that gents pass by on left side then move diagonally left and forward to meet a new couple.

#### Share Your Ideas

Send dance or theme ideas to

Dottie Welch

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Our goal is to publish two or three issues of the *CD Journal* each year.

## Traditional Square Dance

### Arkansas Traveler

**Usage:** The first four turns in the figure have become known as the “Arkansas Traveler” figure. The rest is filler that can be adjusted to suit the situation. The choreography here is one fairly simple option.

**Formation:** Four couples in a square

**Music:** “Arkansas Traveler” or other traditional music such as “Little Burnt Potato”.

**Intro, Break, Ending:**

**Circle Left (16 beats); Circle Right (16 beats);  
Into the Center and Come on Back;  
Everybody Swing your Partner;  
With Partner Promenade around the track;  
Make your feet go wickety whack;**

**Figure:**

**Head Couples Forward and Back;  
Forward again in the same old track;  
Turn opposite right with a right hand round;  
Turn partner left with a left hand round;  
Turn corner right with a right hand round;  
Turn partner left with a left hand round;  
Swing your corner; - - - - ;  
Allemande Left next corner;  
Come back to Promenade the one you swung;  
Go all the way around to home; - - - - ;**

**Repeat for Sides, then Heads, then Sides**

**Description of the Figure:**

- 1-8 The designated couples go forward 3 and touch then backup 3 and touch.
- 9-20 The same four dancers go forward again and the facing dancers turn by the right forearm once around. Then they turn their partner by the left once around.
- 21-32 All dancers turn their corner by the right forearm once around. Then dancers return to their partner for a left arm turn.
- 33-40 All dancers Swing with their corner ending with the girl on the right.
- 41-48 All dancers Allemande Left with the next corner. (This may be omitted.)
- 49-64 Dancers come back to the dancer they just swung for a full Promenade back to the gent’s home.

## Modern Square Dance

### Genderless, 4 or 6 Couple Singing Figures

**Presented by Jim Mayo, New Hampshire**

**Usage:** These singing figures are designed for use during New-Dancer Parties. They can be both done without gender identification. Furthermore they can be used with some squares of four couples and one square with six couples.

**Formation:** Square of four couples (see above)

**Promenade Half:**

If there were two spare couples, one square could have six couples with three of them designated as heads, and the alternating three as sides.

**Prompts:**

Intro or

**57-64 - - - - ; - - Heads Promenade Halfway;  
1-8 - - - - ; Heads Forward and Back;  
9-16 - - - - ; Sides Promenade Halfway;  
17-24 - - - - ; Sides Forward and Back;**

**25-32 - - - - ; All join hands and Circle Left;  
33-40 - - - - ; Face Partner and Dosado;  
41-48 - - - - ; - - Promenade home;  
49-56 - - - - ; - - - - ;**

**Center Dosado, Corner Allemande Left:**

This could also work for six couples if you explained who should Dosado. Normally those in the center would Dosado with their opposite. For the six couple case, once the heads are in the center, each person should Dosado with the dancer beside them who is not their partner. Then the centers back out at home.

**Prompts:**

Intro or

**57-64 - - - - ; - - Heads center for a Dosado;  
1-8 - - - - ; With Corner Allemande Left;  
9-16 - - - - ; Sides center for a Dosado;  
17-24 - - - - ; With Corner Allemande Left;**

**25-32 - - - - ; Everybody Forward and Back;  
33-40 - - - - ; With Corner Allemande Left;  
41-48 - - - - ; With Partner Promenade home;  
49-56 - - - - ; - - - - ;**