

# *Self-Improvement Techniques*

by Tim Marriner

A caller's training does not end when the school is over. Callers will never reach a point where they can't learn or reinforce something. Self-study and self-improvement are needed to keep all the tools of the trade sharp. You must work to correct your weaknesses and enhance your strengths.

Improving your skills will improve your marketability. Caller seminars, clinics, and schools are one way of improving your capabilities but are not the only available resources.

## **Suggested self-improvement techniques**

- a. Read as much caller training literature as possible.
- b. Work with checkers, diagrams, and computerized angels.
- c. Ask questions! When in doubt don't! Ask someone first.
- d. Use the Analyze a Call sheet and do some homework.
- e. Set, follow, and evaluate your programming abilities.
- f. Tape (audio/video) a performance and evaluate the results.
- g. If a partner is involved, get an honest appraisal.
- h. Evaluate the dancer reaction to your calling.
- i. Be honest to yourself, and evaluate your own performance.
- j. Listen to your peers.
- k. Watch entertainers perform and pick up showmanship techniques.
- l. Research material and ideas from other callers.
- m. Subscribe to local, regional, and national square dance publications.
- n. Subscribe to tapes and note services for callers.
- o. Interact with the local, regional and state callers associations.
- p. Attend regional, state, and national conventions for callers.
- q. The Internet has resource materials and forums for callers.
- r. CALLERLAB membership provides access to a wealth of information and benefits.
- s. Practice, practice, and practice!