

WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

By Daryl Clendenin

Okay! I accept the fact that dancing is somewhere near the bottom of a man's list of things to do for fun and recreation. The idea of a handful of guys discussing what to do during a free evening and one of them suggesting "Let's go dancing.", being met with a boisterous "Oh Yeah!", is something funny enough for SNL???. Guys are a lot more likely to say, "Poker, bowling, football game or just about anything but dancing." It's just not likely.

On the other hand, dancing would be one of the first choices on a lady's list of things to do. It seems very unfortunate that the guys who would really enjoy the company of ladies are so quick to dismiss an activity that would bring them together—dancing.

What is there about dancing that turns the guys off? Well, first you have to ask a lady to join you on the dance floor. Now that is scary. What if she says no? Along with being embarrassing, it can be a terrible blow to one's ego. Does the simple act of asking her to dance imply anything else? "What if she thinks I'm hitting on her." Next, everyone might be watching you and in what's already an uncomfortable situation, no one wants to be the center of attention. And then, there's the fancy footwork and rhythm. "When it comes to dancing, I've got two left feet." The distinct possibility of stepping on her feet is always there.

Regardless of all the seemingly good reasons for a man to avoid dancing, it is still one of the best places (if you can overcome the obstacles) to meet and socialize with women. The popularity of shows like Dancing with the Stars and So You Think You Can Dance, dance classes and venues have seen an explosion in the number of single gals. They are there hoping to dance and hopefully, meet some nice fellow.

Now, if a man were hunting deer, he wouldn't waste his time looking around the city streets, he'd go out in the woods where the deer are known to be. Likewise, if a man were to want to make contact with single women, he needs to go where they are. Where are they? They're at dances.

Though I'm not personally involved in ballroom dancing, line dancing or many other dance forms, I feel comfortable in saying the same abundance of single gals exists in all of them. Dancing is sort of a woman's thing.

What I am familiar with is square dancing. With the guys in mind, here are some really good reasons to at least give square dancing a try. Most of the reasons that you might find for not dancing don't exist in square dancing.

Sure, you are still expected to ask a lady to dance, but don't be surprised if she asks you first. Asking someone to dance implies nothing, but it can be an icebreaker of an introduction. In square dancing, the idea that one's request would be rejected is all but non-existent.

Though square dancing is a contact activity, the contact is minimal, mostly hand to hand.

There are seven other people in a square, all moving in relative unison to the music and the directions from the caller. Everyone is paying close attention to the directions from the caller and has little time to notice what anyone else is doing. Yep! You don't have to remember the dance patterns. You move to dance cues from the caller. Sort of like your drill sergeant in the Army, only friendlier.

Unlike ballroom and most other forms of dance, there is *no* fancy footwork. If you can walk, you can square dance. There is rhythm to the music and most dancers try to match their walking to the rhythm. But if they don't, it has no effect on the dance and no one really notices. Two left feet are very common and the risk of stepping on another's toes is a non-concern.

On top of everything else, the average cost to attend classes or dances is unbelievably low. Fun, fellowship, women, great exercise, and probably food—all in one place.

The answer to "Where are the women?" They're dancing and waiting for the single guys. Why not give it a try?