



This newsletter provides promotion and marketing ideas, shines a light on people in our dance community, provides history and general information about our much loved activity, and highlights provincial and national events. If you wish to contribute an article, or see an event, topic, person, or club featured, contact the editor.



THINKING 'OUTSIDE THE BOX'

- by Claudia Littlefair, Editor

There's no question that Covid has had a major impact on our activity, as numbers are down at some clubs by as much as 50%! When it comes to promotion, thinking 'outside the box' is more important now than ever. Here's one such idea that might be worth your while.

Prior to Covid, our District held a free "intro hour" at our weekly summer dances where people could come and try out square dancing. The summer dances were the perfect set-up since the hall was booked, a caller hired, and dancers were coming anyways. The results? Some of these new dancers came several times during the summer, and some joined clubs for lessons in the fall.

So, what if this same idea were applied to your regular weekly dances? Free "intro hours" could be held every week, or two, or monthly. Members wouldn't have to wait months to invite their friends to try it out, and best of all, we'd have a product to offer and advertise throughout the dance season.

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ARE PEOPLE JOINING UP?

Source: FaceBook Page: Social Square Dancing - For the Time Of Your Life

About: This group is focused on implementation of the Social Square Dancing program and all the related successes and challenges, along with solution-based discussions about it.

QUESTIONS POSTED BY NICK & MARYANNE TURNER, Caller/Cuer, Williams Lake, BC:

It was predicted, a year or more ago, that after Covid, people would come flocking to the Social Square Dancing Program, looking for a way to end their forced pandemic isolation. Did this in fact happen and is it happening now, as many SD clubs begin to start a new season?

Many questions go unanswered:

1. If your club successfully recruited new dancers to your SSD program, how did you get them through the door?
2. What was the age range of those who came?
3. Of those who came to your first night of lessons, how many returned for the second night?
4. How many completed the SSD Program and are continuing to dance SSD?
5. How many of the callers teaching SSD were able to successfully teach the SSD program in 12 - 14 weeks?
6. How many took 15 - 20 weeks?
7. How many SSD dancers chose to move on into Mainstream (and beyond) after completing SSD?
8. Is any one keeping track nationwide or state/area wide of how successful SSD is?

Up here in British Columbia, in my Region, we are about to start the new season. The three clubs remaining after Covid will all be using the SSD Program for their new dancers. It would be helpful to be able to see the big picture. Can anyone help by answering the above questions? Thanks. Nick Turner

REPLY FROM LISA MINTON, Caller, Gold Rush Outlaws, Pennsylvania

That is a lot of questions I will try to answer them.

1. Yes we did experience a dramatic influx of new dancers post pandemic.
2. We advertised using a brand marketing approach rather than the traditional product marketing approach. We focused on **selling a social experience rather than square dancing.**

3. The age range was very broad from 8 to 70.
 4. For us, retention is about 75 percent using the SSD program. 75 to 80 percent of new dancers complete the SSD program and continue to dance with us.
 5. The average time to complete the program with us is 6 to 8 weeks.
 6. Here is a breakdown of the percentage of dancers that move on. 25 percent remain at SSD with no desire to move on. 75 percent will eventually go on to mainstream after some time dancing the SSD program. Only about 25 percent would ever pursue Plus.
 7. We are tracking the progress both regionally and nationwide. We currently have five SSD . clubs in our area that continue to grow monthly. More and more callers are having success in other regions and are sending us updates for our SSD video newsletter. We will be posting a new video update this month which should bring everyone up to date.
(Editor's Note: View this youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1cTID8jsJc>)
- I hope I answered most of your questions. Good luck, Lisa

SOME ALBERTA CONVENTION 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- by Claudia Littlefair, Editor

- **A grand total of 187 people rode the rails to our Convention on the September long weekend!** This total exceeded our expectations. The number of full weekend registrants was 168.
- **The pre-Convention free Caller's 2-day Workshop presented by Joe Uebelacker was very well received and appreciated.** Plans are in the works to do something like this again at next year's convention. Ten callers attended the seminar. The free Thursday night dance called by the participants was also well attended with 5 squares of enthusiastic dancers.
- **A BIG THANK YOU to the Convention Host, Calgary & District Square & Round Dancers Association,** for supporting the Caller's Workshop by paying the hall rental bill of \$500 for the seminar and dance! The Alberta caller's group, SRDIAA (Square & Round Dance Instructors Association of Alberta) arranged for the workshop and covered the presenter's fees and expenses.
- **Featured callers Tom Dakers, Calgary and Steve Edlund, Surrey, BC got things rolling by calling an energizing Trail-In Dance, Friday night.**
- **Marlene Symington crafted a memorable, portable train out of cardboard boxes, tar paper and other recycled material.** It was a great way for the committee to promote convention during the year and it was fun to use at the convention!



- For the first time, free intros for the public were held not only for Square Dancing, but Clogging and Line Dancing, too.



- Our dance leaders did a great job of keeping toes tapping throughout the weekend. We had 10 Callers, 5 Caller/Cuers, one cuer instructor, one cuer, one clogging instructor, and one line dance instructor. Although we were short on cuers, **Cliff Dunn, Round Dance Instructor, did a wonderful job of providing a full weekend of round dancing**, including a showcase of rounds on Saturday morning.
- The "Conductor's Ball" on Saturday night was a sea of black & white. It was great to see the variety of skirts and shirts, as almost everyone dressed for the occasion.

- 'Guns of the Golden West' made a surprise appearance on Sunday night. They tried to tie down of our dancers to the train tracks but, thankfully, were unsuccessful. Whew!



- Thanks to the careful planning and hard work by the Committee, the Convention made a substantial profit! Over \$7900 which will be shared by Calgary & District and Alberta Square & Round Dance Federation, as per the signed agreement. (Similarly, if there is a loss, this is also shared between the host association and Alberta Federation.)



- A HUGE THANK YOU to the Convention Committee for donating \$650 from some of the Silent Auction and 50/50 proceeds, to SRDIAA. This is our provincial group of callers & cuers whose purpose is to help train and educate leaders, and provide networking opportunities for it's members.

- After a busy afternoon of square dancing, some dancers took a break at Boston Pizza in Lacombe. A little boy at the next table noticed the train-shaped name badges that the dancers were wearing and asked if he could take a closer look. His dad explained that his favorite thing was trains. After some thought, Red Deer dancer Ron Guss, made a decision. He had just bought the framed cross stitch picture of a train at our Silent Auction. He quickly went to his vehicle and returned with the picture. The little guy was SO excited! "It would fit right in with my room!", he said. His mom explained that his blanket and sheets were train prints. It was definitely a feel-good moment for everyone.



- Special Thanks to Grace & James Chen for taking pictures throughout the weekend! For more pictures click this link: https://1drv.ms/u/s!Akvjxki8doHOsV6eT_WpI6zHFGXG?e=UhMB95

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, she's dead now."

* * * * *

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face." "Yes," the class said. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary positions the blood doesn't run into my feet?" A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

* * * * *

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Editor's Note: The following newspaper article is a good example of what to include in a submission, and parts of this article could be reused "as is". Articles are free advertising and an easy way to create awareness we exist.

CAST OFF 8'S SQUARE DANCE CLUB CUTS A RUG IN PITTSFORD

BY Mat Clouser, The Brandon Reporter, Pittsford, New York

PITTSFORD — Following the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918, the world saw social dancing take off as people Charleston-ed, Shimmied, and Fox Trotted their way back into each other's lives.

Lauren Norford, one of the organizers for the Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club, says she hopes the same thing will happen following the COVID-19 pandemic. "Contemporary square dance is a great way to be active, meet new people, and get back into a lively lifestyle after these many months of restricted activity," she said following one of the group's recent free sessions at the Lothrop School in Pittsford.

The Club, which meets Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. from September through April, hosts a few free meetings—the last of which is Sept. 28 and comes with an ice cream social—each year that are open to dancers of all stripes and levels of experience. Couples are welcomed, but so are individuals or groups of all sizes.



Photo by Mat Clouser

"In addition to our 'new dancer' classes," said Norford, "we hold seven to eight dances for dancers who can dance at the Mainstream level, meaning they have completed the classes and learned about 68 square dance movements or 'calls' such as allemande left, ladies chain, right and left grande."

"The monthly dances often have holiday themes and have a party atmosphere," she continued. "There are door prizes, refreshments, and often a 50/50 or basket raffle. For these theme-based dances [we] often hire a caller from outside the area, so that dancers gain experience dancing to other callers."

Norford also says the club members are close, regularly celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. "When members are sick or experiencing hardship, club members pull together to support that person," she said. "So, members are a community that in some ways goes beyond just the physical and social aspects of dancing."

Many dancers have found a camaraderie in the square dancing community. One thing club members say that many don't know is that modern square dancing is misunderstood. People often think back to barn dances or elementary school square dancing, but things are done differently today.

The caller makes up calls as he goes along, and the dancers have to listen and follow the calls—the dance isn't memorized," said Norford. "In that way, it's fun because the dancer never knows what the caller will call next—it's like being in a walking puzzle. For folks who like a mental challenge, square dancing is awesome; it keeps you thinking and figuring out how to carry out the calls as a team," added Northrop. "The music is also contemporary and is really fun to dance to. The caller, Peter Tobin, picks songs that are accessible to dancers but have a great beat."

"New and interested dancers can still come to try it out for free on Wednesday, Sept. 28," she continued. "This will be the first night of the class for this year. Dancers can try it for one night or sign up in 8-10 week blocks for a discount (the full fee is \$7)."

A minister and lawyer were chatting at a party: "What do you do if you make a mistake on a case?" the minister asked. "Try to fix it if it's big; ignore it if it's insignificant," replied the lawyer. "What do you do?" The minister replied "Oh, more or less the same. Let me give you an example. The other day I meant to say 'the devil is the father of liars,' but instead I said 'the devil is the father of lawyers', so I let it go."

IN THE LONG RUN

- by Corben Geis, December 22, 2010

One of the questions I have received a lot of over the past 3 decades, no kidding, is about 'getting callers into the school systems to teach square dancing the right, proper and FUN way'. One tiny misconception is some...not many, but a few callers and dancers, who may go into the schools with their callers, tend to think that by calling square dances in the schools and campuses that it will increase their numbers in new square dance classes. Um...maybe? But don't hold your breath. Hopefully sometime down the line though. 😊

I've gotten emails from a lot of energetic people who love square dancing and really are on a quest and a mission for saving our activity from becoming extinct. Don't worry. I don't think that will happen any time soon. The emails urge and encourage dancers and callers to shorten our teaching programs, consolidate the lists and calls, do away with the western duds and use modern music. Do you really think that will get more people into square dancing?

A few years ago there were a lot of people on a crusade to change the name of our activity, but as soon as new dancers were trying out Diamond Dancing or CDP, they realized, "hey, this is square dancing". I would personally like to say I like all the ideas. We do need to change, some things, with the times to keep square dancing alive and fresh. I agree.

I've even thought that the approach to instructing in the colleges by teaching the tougher stuff first is a great angle. Each of these concepts are wonderful, just for the fact that people are thinking outside the box, and are trying to save something they love dearly.

Here's some food for thought. A couple of us callers have tried this in our neck of the woods, and though a majority of our local dancers think it's a waste of time, we believe that down the road, this will eventually pay off. Please realize that I understand this is not a marketing strategy that will gain or attract a lot of new dancers immediately, but hopefully in the long run.

The main targets seem to be the Baby Boomers and the Empty Nesters, but far too many of them seem to recall 'horror stories of square dancing in high school'. Not all of them, but a vast majority. I have always blamed the stereotypical gym teachers for our demise. (Ironically, my parents both taught physical education.)

The problem was and still is, these health instructors DO NOT know the basic set up, rules, etiquette, calls, numbering, body flow, directions and formations of square dancing. To me, when someone is trying to teach something, that they are not fully aware of themselves, is setting many people up for failure. Even though I love square dancing very much, it was a disaster back in school. (By the way, my parents were never my P.E. teachers, they actually knew what they were doing)



Setting up for failure means 'horror stories' such as the students constantly breaking down the squares and the teacher losing their patience by trying to resolve the maps and diagrams on the backs of the old LP records. So now you have a class that looks like a scene out from the Muppet Show. Chaos and confusion. And, what do the students remember and relate all of this too? Square Dancing.

In our area, the kids who we've taught square dancing to for over the past 10 years, see me and the other caller out and about and they stop us and say, "We had a blast in your square dancing class. That was so much fun. When I'm done with college I'm going to join a club". Fun, fun, fun. And 99% of the ASD (American Square Dance Magazine) readers I hope will agree with me that it's much more interesting with a LIVE caller, than with instructional cds. (Although there are now really good DVDs that are an excellent teacher's aide for square dancing in the schools) Visual aides are a very good helper.



Now, I'm talking to the callers, please get yourselves and your square dance programs into the school systems!!!! Here's a few tips that we have done, and they worked for us.

- Contact CALLERLAB and research Teaching Callers to Call in the Classroom, or inquire about the Education Committee's Handbook for teaching in schools.
- Write letters of introduction about square dancing and you the caller to send to the schools.
- Send 3 to each school, one for the principal, one for the gym teacher and one to the music teacher. Heck, I even have sent letters to the Math and History Teachers as well. Someone is bound to like the idea.
- Present a program that uses a mixture of music from classic to contemporary, country to hip hop and learn 3 different ways to teach a call.
- Remember, we all learn in different ways. Give them a diversified lesson about square dancing, by means of the subjects I mentioned in the previous paragraph.
- Here's a big one. I dress like the rest of the staff, and I do go in by myself. Sometimes, I get the luxury of teaching the teachers and faculty before meeting the students. What a plus.
- The only time I may dress in square wear, and take in a square of angels with me is when I am teaching to the wee ones. Kindergarten, 1 and 2 graders love the dresses and colorful clothing. Demos are always after, and not before the lesson.
- **Your main reason for going into the schools is NOT to enroll new square dancers for your autumn classes. You are merely 'planting the seed' and putting great memories of square dancing into the young minds of these potential and possible future dancers.**
- Set everyone up for SUCCESS, and they'll remember it in the long run.



Who the Heck is Corben Geis???? Cory was Vice Chairman of Callerlab's Education Committee along with Gerry Hardy of New York for about 5 years and stepped down to give someone else a turn. He wrote a monthly column for the American Square Dance Magazine throughout the year 2000 called CORY-OGRAPHY IN THE CLASSROOM. These articles were written to show and tell callers how to go into the school systems and promote this great American past time in a positive way to the youths of our country. Cory has recently been accepted as the first Vice Chairman of the new Calling in the Schools Committee with Callerlab, under the direction of Mike Callahan from New York. This article was recently published in The American Square Dance Magazine.

KELLY'S KORNER - by Kelly Thompson

Kelly started square dancing in 2016 after being coerced by his sister. He admits that he would have never walked into the club on his own. He has since found a whole new way of looking at life, a community of new friends and personal confidence that didn't exist before.



DANCINTONITE

I am sure we know everything there is to know about Kryptonite. Apparently Kryptonite is a natural substance from the planet Krypton that is supposedly poisonous to Superman. My understanding is the entire planet became uninhabitable to the Kryptons and thus Superman found his way to earth. I guess Kryptons had a few abilities we don't have such as the ability to fly, but we don't have Kryptonite either.



We also know how Popeye gained super strength from his canned spinach. This may have been an antidote Superman could have taken to ward off the effects of Kryptonite but that may come in the future. Who knows, maybe it might work like a vaccine of some kind. The lesson in all of this is the canned spinach is obviously a good thing whereas Kryptonite isn't.

We have developed a new thing-a-ma-bob called *Dancintonite*. Most people haven't really heard about *Dancintonite* because it may very well have come from a foreign planet. We haven't figured how to put it into cans as of yet, but it is at least as good as canned spinach. You won't get quite as an immediate response but you will gain in many ways.

Dancintonite must be taken at least on a weekly basis and it is preferential that it be taken more frequently if possible. *Dancintonite* is much like a workout at the gym in that it strengthens muscles and since the heart is a muscle it helps with that as well. I think the best part of *Dancintonite* is it seems to strengthen the love muscle as well.

I think as we look at our world today, it is becoming more and more like the planet Krypton with all of our conveniences and electronic devices. It is my opinion we are gradually being poisoned and our addictions will force humanity to seek out faraway planets.



Just something to give the thinker a bit of a workout; I guess we can let our Kryptonite kill us or we can take our weekly dose of *Dancintonite*.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF DARKNESS - by Dee Jackins



Dee is an avid square and round dancer and enjoys writing. She shares the lighter side of some of her experiences, challenges and near disasters as a sight impaired person. See issue #2015-6 for her complete story under "Chatter Close-up".

Back in the mid-90's, a group of dancers along with the caller, were planning a trip to the Caribbean for a ten day Cruise in early November. A few of us women from the Singles Club decided to join them on this holiday. This was one of the first ventures that I participated in after losing my sight. Everything went quite well, there were no unexpected surprises and it was a very enjoyable trip. My roommate was more than attentive and assisted in any way possible.

One evening the caller decided to have a square dance in one of the lounges on board so we could qualify for our special badges. The host of the entertainment department had no objection to playing some music that we could square dance to and we had a fantastic evening. When it came time to return to our quarters, I could hear everyone moving about, picking up their belongings and chatting away. I got up and waited for my roommate to say something or take my arm but she was nowhere around. The voices were fading away in the distant. Then the waitress asked me if I needed some help so I mentioned to her that I was blind and I guess they were all too busy to notice that I needed some guidance. It only took a couple of seconds when I heard, "Hey ladies! You forgot someone over here!" Thank goodness they weren't too far away; I might have gone in circles for the rest of the evening. It was a brand new experience - I learn something different every day as time goes on.

A while back when visiting another club, one of their members was also blind and he asked his wife to come and get me for the next tip. I was more than willing to accept this challenge but how were we going to achieve this - two totally blind people, dancing as partners, trying to locate each other as we maneuvered about the square. After a few calls everything was flowing along just fine. All fell into place with no hassle as we followed the caller's directions. When we were approaching one another we would speak softly, just loud enough to hear where we were at and locate each other's position. There was no break down and we managed to avoid any collisions - it just flowed along so smooth. Anything is possible if you give it a whirl, even in dancing!

It brought back memories of the well known line, "Oh, Romeo, Romeo, where art thou?" But certainly not as dramatic.

Till next time - 'see' you across the square.

- Did you ever buy a cured ham and wonder what it had?
- How do you know when it's time to tune your bagpipes?
- Everything is within walking distance if you have the time.
- Have you ever wondered what chairs would look like if your knees bent the other way?
- How can you tell when you're running out of invisible ink?
- How do "Do Not Walk on the Grass" signs get there?
- How come economy-size means big in soap and small in cars?
- How come fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?

THE HISTORY OF SQUARE DANCING – SOME SURPRISING FACTS!

blog by Brian Sheridan, www.countrydancing.com

Square dancing has been immensely popular for centuries now, with its origins settled in multiple countries worldwide. Nowadays, square dancing has become distinctly Americanized, with the dance now heralded as the folk dance of many US states.

The history of square dancing may surprise you. Square dancing is unmistakably multicultural, coming from European settlers and indigenous American communities. Square dancing has become one of the most popular folk dance forms, enjoyed by people of all ages.

In the rest of this article, I will discuss the origins of square dancing, the many types of square dance, and traditional square dance dress. I'll also go through some of the key terms you'll need to know should you wish to try this most entertaining hobby.

WHERE DID SQUARE DANCING ORIGINATE?

Square dancing has been around for a long time, albeit in many different forms. Different communities practice it in different ways, making it one of the most diversified dances today.

Square dancing dates back to the 1600s and comes from a form of Morris dance practiced by English settlers in America. This, accompanied by a French dance called the Quadrille, was the beginning of what we now call square dancing.



Alongside these European dances, one can imagine that square dancing became quite popular when [combined](#) with the traditional dances of Native American societies in the 1600s. It was an excellent way for people of contrasting communities to come together.



Square dancing also holds a root in African American culture. In communities where slavery persisted, enslaved people would take these dances and make them their own, often performing music at events and acting as 'callers' for local square dances.

Square dancing has changed a lot throughout the years. While the traditional square dance is still enjoyed by many today, it has evolved into several different types of square dances. As communities joined and mixed over time, these dance forms held them together.

WHAT MUSIC IS PLAYED AT A SQUARE DANCE?

The music played at a square dance is everything from ballads, rock, bluegrass bands, and solo singers. You can play music at a square dance as long as it has a distinct beat.

Country Western music is a popular choice for square dancers, and it's likely what comes to mind when you think of square dancing. However, you'll find many communities that square dance to other genres. As per the rule of thumb, if you can dance to it, you can square dance to it.

WHY IS IT CALLED SQUARE DANCING?

Most people believe that square dancing is called so because couples dance in a square. However, there are certain forms of square dance wherein couples dance in a circle, which confuses the name of the dance.



Provided by the Square Dance Music Producers' Committee

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It is called square dancing to set it apart from other dance forms. The earliest and most traditional form of square dancing was the Quadrille, a dance that included four couples who danced in a square formation. Later, the style evolved, but it still kept its roots as a couples dance.

TYPES OF SQUARE DANCE

There are many types of square dance. Since communities revitalize and reinvent the square dance as per their own traditions and customs, it has evolved and split into different traditional categories.

So, let's look at these categories and talk about what makes each one unique.

The Quadrille: A Traditional Square Dance

The Quadrille is the earliest form of square dancing. It comes primarily from England and France, with a format that King Louis XV himself sanctioned. Many of the newer forms of square dance have their roots in the Quadrille, and it is still practiced today in many places around the world.

Western Square Dance

The western square dance is similar to the traditional square dance. However, there is one notable difference: the caller in a Western square dance 'calls' the steps in an unexpected, random way, whereas in a Quadrille, the caller has specified 'calls' to make that must go in a specific order.

Singing Squares: Modernizing the Square Dance



Pushing forward a couple of centuries, the singing squares are a much newer (and perhaps even more entertaining) form of square dance. These dances are formatted in much the same way as the traditional Quadrille, but the caller sings instead.

In many ways, while the dance itself is similar to the traditional square dance, the singing square perpetuates the notion of evolution and change. Communities are constantly evolving, and, as a result, the way they perform their square dances develops as well.

Modernizing a dance doesn't mean changing it entirely, but it speaks to the natural progression of community life.

The Virginia Reel

The Virginia Reel was one of the very first forms of American square dancing. It took steps from the classic square dance (the Quadrille) and changed it to suit American communities at the time. One of the most significant differences between the Virginia Reel and the traditional square dance is its line format. Dancers stand in lines facing each other rather than in a square form. However, the moves remained essentially the same.

The Virginia Reel first became popularized in America through Mormon communities – another example of change and evolution through community living.

WHAT DO SQUARE DANCERS TRADITIONALLY WEAR?

Square dancers can wear whatever they like nowadays, especially in modern country bars and clubs where square dancing is a weekly ritual. However, square dancing has followed a specific dress code throughout the ages.

Square dancers traditionally wear western-style clothing. Women would wear skirts with crinolines (a garment designed to puff up a dress), and men would wear western-style shirts and western boots. Modesty was essential in traditional square dancing attire.



Although many people in this era choose not to wear these traditional clothes, many places still uphold the dress code. These places intend to maintain the traditions and customs of their folk dances.

If you decide you'd like to try square dancing, you probably won't have to wear these clothes. You can opt for something comfortable, as long as it's modest. However, a fun prairie skirt wouldn't go amiss since it gives you the full experience of a traditional square dancer.

However, the most significant piece of advice I can give you is to wear comfortable shoes. All that spinning and sliding across the floor – a pair of stilettos probably isn't going to cut it.

KEY SQUARE DANCING TERMS

If you're going to square dance for the first time, you'll likely be confused with all the [terms](#). The 'caller' will shout out (or sing) lots of dancing orders, and you'll have to follow them. Have a look below to learn some of the most important terms.

- **Do Si Do:** This is one of the most well-known calls, and it means you have to face your dance partner, walk past them, and then step back so that your backs are touching.
- **Swing:** Imagine you're waltzing with your partner – this is the movement you'll be imitating. Go full circle with your partner, and twirl under his arm at the end.
- **Square:** This is the most crucial step. This step is your beginning format, where you, your partner, and the other couples will be standing in a square form.
- **Promenade:** Walk in a full circle with your partner holding hands until you get back to your starting position.
- **Stack the Wood:** Give your partner a hug! The Stack the Wood might come at the end of the dance, and it's an excellent way to round off the evening.

You may have noticed that some of the terms have come from previous square dance forms. 'Promenade,' for example, has its roots in the original French version of square dancing. As you can see, these variations still stand out even in the most modern dance forms.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The history of square dancing is multifaceted and has a past rooted in bringing communities together. The modern versions that exist today are remnants of historical recollection and tradition.

If you're planning to square dance anytime soon, pick up one of those prairie skirts or a set of comfortable leather boots to get the whole experience. You'll likely find it very easy to make friends at your local square dancing night since community spirit is deep within the square dance tradition.

SOURCES

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- *Major Keys Square Dance Club: Square Dance Terminology*
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- *Cane Country Squares: Square Dance Clothing Styles*
- *Puddletown Squares: What to Wear*
- *Encyclopedia.com: Square Dancing*
- *Square Up Fashions: Square Dancing: 7 Most Popular Square Dancing Styles*
- *Britannica: Square Dance*
- *Square Up Fashions: History of Square Dance: What Is Square Dancing and How Did It Start?*
- *Smithsonian Magazine: Square Dancing is Uniquely American*

SIGN IN A RESTROOM: Toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

SIGN IN A LAUNDROMAT: Automatic washing machines - please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

SIGN IN A LONDON DEPARTMENT STORE: Bargain basement upstairs.

SIGN IN OFFICE: After tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.