



# American Caller's Association

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From the President:

Hi folks, I hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy during these very awkward times. Who would have thought that in our lifetime, especially in 2021 that we would be going thru such a terrible crisis, hopefully it will be resolved very soon.

To begin, I have some sad news. Jerry Story, one of the most popular International Square Dance callers of our time passed away on December 19, 2020 at the age of 65. Please keep his wife Kristy, sons Josh, Jack and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Rest in Peace Jerry, not only will you be missed by your friends, but many, many others.

I have not called a Square Dance since March 15, 2020. I am very concerned about our activity. We all know that it has been struggling for quite some time. If and when the activity returns, in my opinion we will lose many of our current Square Dancers. Some have been frightened and will stay away; some have been gone from the activity so long that they have found other things to do. This has taken a horrible toll on Square Dancing and it will take each and every one of us to bring it back to some type of normality, let's hope that we can do so.

Best of luck to everyone, stay healthy, hopefully we will be able to see our friends in a square again real soon.

Tom Roper, ACA President

## CHANGES THAT HAVE TO BE MADE TO REGROW THIS ACTIVITY

In order to get this activity going again we have to START at the first level and grow from that.

If we do not Start at the Basic level and allow the new people to Dance and enjoy it

The level set up DO NOT MIX PLUS AND OTHER LEVELS and give the new dancers the TIME to learn all they need to know and be able to survive. We will have killed our self again and we will not survive with a dance activity to rebuild. Its all up to us the callers.

Do not let anyone push you into turning out dancers before they know enough to survive on a basic dance floor you are in CHARGE of this part of the TEACHING new people to dance.

The same should be for MAINSTERAM and let the club members know that up front before you start the class. DONOT mix the levels unless you want to see the same thing happen again and again and again with the class members leaving SQUARE DANCE NEVER to return.

We have the chance to bring this activity back stronger and better than ever if we do it right.

We know by now that we cannot have this activity survive if we try to mix dance levels.

I have been a part of the dances activity and calling for over 60 years and have watched the activity go from the great activity to a smaller and smaller activity to the point that you could not get people to even talk to you about joining a dance class and if they did you could not get dancers to help with the class. In order for this activity to survive we have to get back to NOT asking dancers to move to the next level before they are ready to go and I know that you will have people in your groups that will try to push new dancers to the next level before they ready to go but WE ARE the ones that make that call since we are the teachers.

If you teach the new dancer more than one way to do the call they will have better chance to survive. This why I believe that as the Caller-Teacher you should have the new dancer walk through the call starting with Basic all the way through at least four times.

I think it will take us at least 3 to 4 years to get this activity going again. BUT THE ONLY WAY we can do this is to allow the dancer the time to enjoy what they have learned. This is your class and they go out as a statement of your ability as a Caller /Teacher.

Mac Letson

**-CTP-NOTES-  
-CALLER TEACHING PROGRAM-  
-QUARTERLY-  
-NOTE SERVICE-**

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH  
2021

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## COMMENTARY - RALPH TROUT

Welcome to the Caller Teaching Program Quarterly Note Service. Along with John Carlton, Wes Morris (Deceased), and myself, as we have worked very hard to produce a Note Service for the Newer Caller and Dancers over the past ten years. The experienced Caller will also find many things that will help Square Dancing in the future. Speaking of Wes Morris, we used to call him Mr. Chicken Plucker. He liked to move dancers all around the floor in as many quadrants as possible with alternating hand movements and good body flow. We miss Wes as he had one of the best minds when it came to choreography and smooth dancing. The reason we made this a Quarterly Note Service was to save on the postage costs and we will give you plenty of material to work on for three months at a time.

As we move ahead with the Note Service, I would like to remind everyone that all choreography, calls and combinations of calls are "NOT" copyrightable. You may see some things that you recognize or heard before as we have traded many things over the years with each other or copied as all the new calls came out. We try to write as much new choreography as possible as we don't like copying things other callers do. The newer caller has not seen a lot of the material that we will use and many of the experienced callers will think that I haven't used that in a long time.

Lets look at the Square Dance activity today as it is not what it used to be. I can remember in the 70's and 80's when we had full Square Dance halls with dancers that were happy and a lot of laughter. What happened !!!!!!!!!!!.

I think all Callers, Cuers, Dancers, Organized Federations, Clubs, Officers, Caller Organizations, and anyone that has anything to do with Square Dancing should look in the MIRROR and say what happened !!!!!!!!!!!.

I think it's time to say we all put aside all of our differences and build Square Dancing back to what it used to be. Put a great effort out to build big classes again as their are many more people today that we can recruit and have fun at our hobby. It will take a good push to do this but I think it can be done.

I would hate to see such a great American Heritage die and go by the wayside. As dancers increase, clubs will grow and new callers will come out of this. New callers will start new clubs and help increase our activity.

Thank you for joining our new Note Service and good Dancing in the future.  
Happy Dancing.

Ralph.

## COMMENTARY - JOHN CARLTON

Welcome to our Caller Teaching Program Quarterly Note Service. We intend to give you material that will motivate you to raise your calling skills to the next level.

We will give you choreography that will give you interesting uses of the moves. It is about you bringing your dancers to be more well-rounded dancers. The better they dance the easier it is for you to call and give the dancers a comfortable, exciting and satisfying event.

We are going to highlight a move from the Basic, Mainstream, and Plus programs in each issue. There will be some fun moves from the past that are easy to do. We will introduce you to some experimental moves as we find them. There will be some interesting get-ins, get-outs and stir-the-bucket. I am confident that if you use this material we offer and you build your own material that your dancers will cheer you on and think you are the best caller to pick up a mic! John.

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### A Call From The Past - Revived **STAR THE ROUTE** - Don Williamson - Tenn. 1981

**Heads or Sides Lead  
STAR THE ROUTE  
40 Beats or Steps.**

**Make a Right Hand Star 3/4 to the  
Right Hand Couple;  
With a Left Hand Star once around  
And come into the Middle;  
With a Right Hand Star 1/2 to the  
Left Hand Couple;  
With a Left Hand Star once around  
To the Center;  
With a Right Hand Star 3/4  
Untill you get back home.**

**Square Your Sets.**

**Heads or Sides Lead  
REVERSE STAR THE ROUTE  
40 Beats or Steps.**

**Make a Left Hand Star 3/4 to the  
Left Hand Couple;  
With a Right Hand Star once around  
And come into the Middle;  
With a Left Hand Star 1/2 to the  
Left Hand Couple;  
With a Right Hand Star once around  
To the Center;  
With a Left Hand Star 3/4  
Untill you get back home.**

**Square Your Sets.**

## RECORD (MUSIC) COMPANY'S

If you would like to list your RECORD (MUSIC) COMPANY, we would gladly do so by WEB SITE only. Go to the web sites and see what they have to offer. We will not give our opinion of the music or choreography as our opinions may vary with yours.

If you purchase any music or MP3's, I would like you to "NOT" share these with other Caller's, or pirate them, as the cost to Record Producers is very high, and if they slowly diappear you have no one to blame but yourself. I hope someday plastic will come back, as part of the business; some of us still use turn-tables.

1. RHYTHM RECORDS - Rhythm Records.com ----- Wade Driver
  2. ESP RECORDS - Esp Recordings.com ----- Elmer Sheffield, Jr.
  3. ARROWHEAD RECORDINGS - Arrowhead Recordings.com ----- Dean Singleton
  4. COYOTE/TNT RECORDS - Coyote/Tnt.com ----- Don Coy
  5. ROYAL RECORDS - Royal - Records.com ----- Jerry Story/Tony Oxendine
  6. MASON DIXON LINE/COUNTY LINE RECORDS  
"RECORDS ONLY" - Ralph Trout 856-447-3439 or John Carlton 210-521-4044.
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## SWAP SHOP - BUY, SELL & TRADE

As a subscriber to the Note Service, we offer this section for anyone wanting to Buy, Sell, & Trade any item used in the Square Dance Calling activity.

We will list only one item per issue, but when someone calls, tell them about any other items you may have.

CTP - NOTES will not be held responsible for any dealings in the Swap Shop.

(SPACE AVAILABLE)



# American Callers Association

PH 1-256-383-7585 P.O. Box 2406 Muscle Shoals, AL 35662

<b>BMI/ASCAP LICENSE</b>	
THROUGH	
<b>AMERICAN CALLERS ASSOCIATION INC</b>	
The National Association of Dance Instructors and Leaders	
<b>AMERICAN CALLERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	
President: Tom Roper	Advisory Board: Gary Shoemake,
Vice President: Bill Chestnut	Tom Davis
Education & Marketing: Pat Demerath	Mac Letson, Executive Director
<b>Go to the Web Page for Country-Western &amp; Line Dance license and Insurance Application</b>	

AMERICAN CALLERS has two schedules: Fifty Dances or Less and Fifty Dances or More. The fees apply ONLY to Callers, Round Dance Teachers, Contra Prompters, and Clogging Instructors.

## Membership Application for BMI/ASCAP License & Liability Insurance

April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022

Caller     Rounds Teacher/ Cuer     Contra Prompter     Clogging

Please check one: New Member     Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Instructing: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

These licensing rates include the BMI/ASCAP fee, annual dues, and all members are insured under the group LIABILITY insurance coverage. Fees listed herein are established by the respective BMI/ASCAP Boards. Fees are Non refundable.

For all or any part of the year. The fees listed below are for **Caller, Rounds Teacher/ Cuer, Contra Prompter and Clogging**

**51- DANCE EVENTS - per year (OR LESS) \$ 177.00**      **52-DANCE EVENTS - per year (OR MORE) \$ 227.00**

**CLOGGING-per year (Fifty or More) \$227.00**

*ACA will always strive to get the best price we can for our members. We are working for you in every way.*

Note: all information on insurance must be directed to the ACA office Member or spouse badges are: \$18.00 each for pin back and \$20.00 each for magnet back. Price includes postage. Badges will be shipped direct from our badge maker to you. Please allow 30 days for receipt of license. Please feel free to copy and distribute this application to other dance instructors.

Make Checks Payable to AMERICAN CALLERS Inc and mail P-O- Box 2406 Muscle Shoals, AL- 35662-2406

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