



# American Caller's Association

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## Rebuilding Square Dancing

What will Square Dancing look like two or three years from now? Are will there even be square dancing? If we do not rebuild the mainstream level and allow people time to know that Mainstream is the foundation level of our activity and be able to dance and help with the next Class, before they are allowed to go to the Plus level. This will allow time to become a better dancer and will make it better for them as a Square Dancer Will there even be Square Dancing if we do not help rebuild the activity and give them time to enjoy and understand what they have learned. This is just my opinion after calling and teaching for 64 Years. They need that time to get to know the people that help them learn to dance and pass it on to the next class. By allowing them time they will understand the call better and will be able to dance it better. This will require CALLERS NOT to try to get them in Plus and give them time to become a REAL Square Dancer that will stay in Square Dancing.

We must do a better job of teaching new dancers the definition of calls and stop saying Boys or Girls unless the call definition is written Boy or Girls. I know it's hard to break old habits but this will help the new dancer understand how the call works from left side or right side Dancer as a couple this will make them understand the call better. This will help the new dancer.

New Dancers respond better to calls if they are exposed to both the Left & the Right-side part of a couple call. The good thing about teaching this way is that it may take a little more time but in the long run it will cut down teaching time for calls as you get farther into the class.

This is the reason we are suggesting teaching this way and if we keep them in Mainstream and let them DANCE until they help the next class they will be better dancers and will stay in Square Dancing longer. That is why we need to do this, to bring back a foundation for the Square Dance activity and we will have better Dancers and a way to rebuild this Activity.

For the last 25 to 30 years, we have totally wiped out the foundation of our Square Dance activity that WAS and WILL always be MAINSTREAM. The way they are taught at Mainstream Will determent how long they will stay in SQUARE DANCING. Let them enjoy IT.

Then the Covid thing just about killed out Square Dancing as we knew it. There are some places that are trying to hold on. It,s just my opinion If we do not give them time to enjoy what they have learn and KEEP IT. I think we will not have Square Dancing.

IF WE DO NOT KEEP MAINSTEAM HEALTHY THAT IS the FOUNDNATION WE BUILD ON. I believe we can rebuild Square Dancing, but we have to do it with Mainstream FIRST.

Mac Letson

#1

Box 1-4

Boys diagonal Pass Thru  
Girls Run, Partner Trade,  
Right & Left Thru. (box 1-4)  
Boys diagonal Pass Thru,  
Girls Run, Partner Trade,  
Pass the Ocean, Recycle,  
Girls Walk, Boys Dodge,  
Left Allemande.

#2

Box 1-4

Girls diagonal Pass Thru  
Boys diagonal Pass Thru  
Center Boys diagonal Pass Thru  
All Trade and Roll, Pass Thru,  
Bend Line. (\*use one of the two get  
outs.)  
\*Pass Ocean, Girls Trade, Recycle,  
Sweep 1/4(1p2p)  
\*Pass Ocean, Swing Thru, Turn Thru,  
Left Allemande.

#3

Head Ladies diagonal Pass Thru  
Side Ladies diagonal Pass Thru  
All Single Hinge, walk by one to  
PARTNER, R & L Grand.

#4

Heads Touch 1/4  
Just the Girls Pass Thru  
Centers Square Thru 4 hands,  
others face- Partner Pass Thru,  
All- U- Turn Back, Pass Thru,  
Wheel & Deal, centers Pass Thru  
Swing Thru, Boys Trade, Swing Thru,  
Girls Run, Tag the Line Right,  
Couples Circulate, Half Tag,  
Walk & Dodge, Partner Trade,  
Pass the Ocean, Recycle, Pass Thru,  
Trade By, Allemande Left

Heads 1/2 sashay, Sides Square Thru 2  
Just the Boys Pass Thru.

Centers Walk & Dodge, outside Boy  
Run, Swing Thru, Cast Off 3/4, Girls  
Trade, Boys Run-----All Promenade

#6

Heads --Sq Thru 4, Sides 1/2 Sashay,  
Just the Girls Pass Thru, Center Walk &  
Dodge Outside Girl Run, Touch 1/4,  
Boys Trade, Split Circulate,  
All 8 Circulate, Right & Left Grand

#7

Heads Pass the Ocean, Girls Trade,  
Recycle, Pass Thru, Girls on a diagonal  
Pass Thru, All Cast Off 3/4, R & L Thru,  
Pass Thru, Wheel & Deal, Zoom,  
Centers Pass Thru, Girls on diagonal  
Pass Thru, All Trade & Roll, R & L  
Thru, Pass Thru,  
Wheel & Deal, Zoom, Centers Pass  
Thru,  
\*Touch 1/4 and Roll, Pass Thru, Right  
& Left Grand

\*Right & Left Thru,  
Pass the Ocean, Recycle, Girls Walk,  
Boys Dodge, Allemande Left

#8

Heads Touch 1/4,  
Just the Girls Pass Thru  
Centers Right & Left Thru  
Outside Girl U Turn Back  
Centers Pass Thru, Star Thru,  
Pass Thru Wheel & Deal, Zoom,  
Centers Pass Thru, Slide Thru,  
Right & Left Thru, Dixie Style to a  
Wave,  
Girls Run Left, Ferris Wheel,  
Centers Touch 1/4, Allemande Left.





*The 74th NSDC invites you for Food,  
Fun, Fellowship and Great Dancing!*  
**Shreveport Convention Center**  
**June 25-28, 2025**

Follow the 74th National Square Dance Convention®  
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**Register today at**  
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*Come Dance on the Wild Side!*

Photos courtesy of Shreveport-Bossier Convention & Tourist Bureau



## **A Note from Ralph Trout & John Carlton**

### **CTP~ Callers Teaching Program**

**This will be our first note for 2024. We hope everybody had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July and get ready for a hot summer. We just got home from the 73<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and it was a very good convention. The attendance increased again and we feel Square Dancing is finally on its way back up.**

**Many people asked us if CTP (Callers Teaching Programs) is a part of American Callers Association and it is not. This is a business that John and I started to help the calling industry, for new and experienced callers, in any way we can because we need callers.**

**We were impressed by the better class of callers and thought they did an excellent job. We love to listen to callers and one particular caller from Orland Park, Illinois had the dancers kicking up their heels with excitement. We hope to see more of this young man and even more callers to follow in this path to bring the joy of dancing back.**

**Finally, we are excited with our new Callers School coming in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, August 4-8, 2024. The staff will be Steve Kopman, Mac Letson, John Kephart, John and myself. The school will follow the Tennessee State Convention.**

**Again, have a great summer with lots of good calling.**

**Ralph and John**