



# American Callers' Association

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Newsletter

**JANUARY-2009**

**View Point**

BY

PRESIDENT RAY BRIGANCE

It is with the greatest of enthusiasm and optimism on behalf of the Executive Board of the AMERICAN CALLERS' ASSOCIATION that I would like to wish all square dancers and callers a very happy and prosperous 2009. This article is dedicated to new callers who work so hard to learn to call.

The American Callers' Association was formed over fifteen years ago with a firm belief, supported by statistical data, that new square dancers and their home clubs, and club callers were and are under too much stress as they attempt to learn and dance too many movements. The square dancing fun and friendship level just may be at an all time low, as is evidenced by minimal recruiting of new dancers and a significant number of dancers leaving square dancing for a variety of personal and health reasons. At the same time, the number of callers is being reduced, but **very few new callers** are entering square dancing. To become an experienced caller requires **continuous practice and application for 4 – 5 years**. Each year the remaining number of callers continues to decline. Square dance "Calling" is in nothing short of a crisis survival situation.

The AMERICAN CALLERS' ASSOCIATION has ceaselessly urged that the current stressful and lengthy dance programs must be simplified to allow for an easier entry and easier method for new callers to start calling. In addition, clubs and callers must encourage new callers and give them ample and continuous calling opportunities and encouragement.

There are three golden rules for new callers to survive and thrive:

1. Allow continuous time for new callers and encourage them to call and teach new dancers.
2. Assist them in forming new square dance clubs.
3. Teach new callers the "Fundamentals of Calling" and teach them the fundamentals of music.
4. A good book for new callers is Fundamentals of Calling by Dr Jay King .

Throughout the past ten years the American Callers' Association has a program of "Accredited Caller Training Specialists." ( *caller coach* ) The AMERICAN CALLERS' ASSOCIATION encourages square dance clubs to encourage and utilize these fine callers to train new callers. For your next caller school or clinic, contact one of these fine Callers. For more information check the AMERICAN CALLERS' WEBSITE.

The AMERICAN CALLERS' ASSOCIATION'S "One Floor Square Dancing program" can do the following positive actions to assist in new caller recruitment and training.

- Retain and support solid and workable dancing movements that can be taught in as little as twelve weeks with lessons one night a week
- Enable a club to have two "New Dancer" programs per year with extended breaks in between
- Reduce and all but eliminate the stress and strain on the new callers in a stabilized teaching environment.
- Increase fun friendship, and fellowship for new callers, current callers, dancers, and clubs.
- A-line itself with what perspective non-dancers demographic age groups will accept considering life style changes and competition for their time.
- Eliminate the segregation, separatism, and division of callers and dancers.
- Confirm and enforce the "American Traditional Core Values." All Americans strive to be equal and accepted and eliminate a "separate and unequal" system dividing the callers, dancers and clubs.
- Increase club membership increasing calling opportunities for new callers.

Today as we enter 2009, signs of a Renaissance / Revival / Reform are all around us as more clubs and associations are using one-floor programs As we move through the revitalization, the executive board and the members of AMERICAN CALLERS' ASSOCIATION are most willing to work together with all square dance groups to improve the world of square dancing and get square dancing more in line with the demands of perspective dancers. Let's move forward together to simplify square dancing, gain more dancers and eliminate separatism and segregation of square dancers and clubs, and pay the price for success not the price of failure. If we as an activity can do this together, we can truly be optimistic and joyous about our future.

### **BREAKDOWN on ASCAP & BMI**

This is for the year ending March 31, 2009. This is what you paid this year and does not reflect increases for the year starting 4-1-09 thru 3-31-2010. Any increases you have from year to year are the result of increases by ASCAP/BMI and are spelled out in the contract ACA signed with BMI/ASCAP and are determined by the cost of living index each year.

The license for fifty dances or less was \$139.00. The breakdown is as follows:

BMI: \$43.00 plus administrative fee of \$10.00.ASCAP: \$31.00 plus administrative fee \$10.00.

Insurance: \$25.00. Membership dues in ACA: \$20.00. We operate ACA on \$20.00 per member.

When we started 15 years ago we had dues of \$20.00. We have one paid employee. Mac Letson does not receive any pay for what he does for ACA. Mac does, however, get a small car allowance for using his car for ACA. We have to pay rent, office supplies, phone bills, internet cost for web page, office employee, postage, and any other incidental expenses to run the ACA office out of the dues. Thanks to the strong support of our members. We look forward to a great 2009.

## SAD NEWS

We have learned of the passing of a fine man and a good square dance caller, Mel Estes of Alabama.

We were informed by an email that caller, Lucky Shotwell passed away just before Christmas in Texas.

To the families of these fine people, we extend our heart-felt sympathy.

Received an email Jan 3, from Reggie Kniphfer of North Carolina, that caller Ray Pardue of Southport, NC had a severe stroke, leaving him with no feeling on the right side. Our prayers and thoughts are with Ray and his wife Callie.

### *Sent from the Internet in response to the Dec, 2008 ACA Viewpoint*

My name is Chris (Christine) Burdick. I have been a round dance cuer for a couple of years. I just started teaching squares this year. The club I am teaching for does not dance all summer. There are dances during the summer, but not as many as there are during the regular season. Chicago is a plus level dancing area. What I have done is create a syllabus that will get them through the calls by the end of Feb. I update it every week with what we have done and what we need to do. Actually, we were supposed to go a bit longer, but we did not need the time. We did not start until October. I have told the club that if they are catching on, I am not going to hold them back. If they need the time elsewhere then we will spend it. It all depends on the students. The best thing they can do is to get out and dance. The floor time will help them with the reaction time they need.

What I have been doing is updating my list every week and emailing it to the club president. I am forwarding my ideas and getting her opinion. They have not realized how much time would need to be spent on this before. By keeping them in the loop and allowing them to see what I am doing they have a better appreciation for what is going on. The other callers in the area are not keeping the clubs in the loop like this.

We also do not have any disagreements because the club is fully aware of what I am going to do. I ask for suggestions and listen to them. I am not threatened by them. I do not have to do what they want, but by listening they may give me ideas that I may not have thought of.

Chris

### **The subject, ABC/CL/ACA was Setting Customer Expectations**

Rick Hampton responds

I've been watching the recent comments about The ABC failures, The CL folks who are unhappy and the folks who feel that the ACA "One Floor" is the right approach. Let me share a unique perspective- I am a member of the team who wrote the first ABC Callers School curriculum, An ACA Caller Training Specialist and (after a many year absence) a CL member. I am also a full time traveling caller who also teaches 2-3 "Entry level" classes per year as well as a. 2/PL/One Floor and Parties (ONS) Etc .events regularly Here are my humble, yet informed, observations.

- 1) All 3 have a version of an entry level (ABC is slightly different with the entry level being the destination)
- 2) CL Lists/Definitions "tend" to be interpreted with a higher "technical" approach by many, especially our overseas friends and/or (many are newer) Higher level callers.
- 3) ACA relies on the "original authors" i.e. what is in Burleson for definitions.

The impetus for ACA and subsequently the "One Floor" was a feeling that CL was not effective (this was a long time ago) and I see that many feel that it is the case again. The desire was to keep more dancers!

The Impetus for CL to again have a basic program was the keep more dancers.

The impetus for ABC was to attract more dancers. Anybody see a pattern??

I suggest that the ACA "One Floor" list (which may need a tweak or 2) more accurately reflects what occurs at a "Plus" dances in a large, large part of the US and will likely occur overseas soon. Many report this has already started. So if it is accurate, why not embrace it? Why not make it (or something equally accurate) the First year destination for traditional classes, and let the other "full" programs be fed by a subset of a higher number of new customers??

As far as ABC goes, its a single dance. Not an entry level and when folks show MWSD as a "better-higher neater" to an ABC group, you're merely hurting a viable DANCE program to attract folks to what we ALL agree is a flawed CLASS program.

Merry Christmas

Rick "Flame proof Santa Suit On" Hampton

CONTRA PAGE: FOLD ON THE BROKEN LINE BEFORE READING (?)

Here are the answers to the CONTRA-MATCH question in the October Newsletter. (1)h (2)c (3)i (4)g (5)l (6)k (7)d (8)j (9)b (10)a (11)e (12)f. The matching are all straightforward, no tricks. That, however, is not the case with today's question. Put the right people together, callers and/or dancers, and today's little exercise can raise a real fuss. The reason? Because the answers represent the fundamental difference between Western and Traditional contra. Or if you wish, between Western and Eastern contra. One suggestion. Don't be lulled into seeing no problem. Helpful hint? Two of the items have indeterminate answers. This said we will leave aside the question of whether they are, then, properly called "figures". Note: circle figures refer to *two couple* circles.

HOW MANY COUNTS (BEATS) ?

...

1. Dos a dos \_\_
2. Star thru---
3. Ladies chain---
4. Reel of four---
5. Contra corners---
6. Balance--
7. Rt & Lft thru--
8. Circle 3/4 \_
9. Square thru \_\_
10. Dixie style to an ocean wave \_\_
11. Circle 1/4\_\_
12. Swing \_\_
13. Wheel around\_\_
14. Cast off \_\_
15. Circle 4/4\_\_
16. Bend the line---
17. Circle 1 & 1/4\_---
18. Circle 1 & 1/2---
19. Star---

~--

OK? The indeterminate ones, of course, are 12 and 19. Once started, there is nothing inherent in either figure that tells you where to stop. These "figures" have no end point. The rest can be divided into two groups, those that are circular and those that are not. It is the *two couple* "circular figures" that are at the center of our story and the reason for the "controversy". There are five of them: circle 1/4, 3/4, 4/4, 1 & 1/4, 1 & 1/2.

Here is the "crux". In traditional contra two couples circle once around in 8 counts. For the five circle figures that mean 2, 6, 8, 10, 12 counts. They don't much use the 2, 6, or 10. Western contra is different. Taking its cue from the pace of square dancers, Western contra dancers do not get two couples around in time to complete a full circle in 8 counts. They get 3/4 of the way around. That is how western square dancers move. For them, the Western numbers are 2 & 2/3, 8, 10 & 2/3, 13 & 1/3 and 16. (Ouch!)

Sounds awful, but choreographically it all settles down very nicely to this one sentence.

*The location, on the floor of the 8th count, sets in place the kinds of figures and patterns that evolve.* Traditionalists are set in a mold determined by the eight count full circle. Western contra, getting around only 3/4 of the way in 8 counts, reaches its next whole number, 16 counts, at 1 & 1/2 turns. These new numbers open up a whole new range of choreographic possibilities, a point we will look at in the next newsletter.

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## James Ratliff, Sundow Squares Stir The Bucket Equivalents

1. 4- Ladies Chain , Heads Roll Away  
Star Thru, Pass to the center, StarThru  
Pass Thru, Partner Trade,  
Stirred the bucket for a signing call
2. 4-Ladies Chain, Heads Star Thru, Pass Thru  
Pass to the Center, Touch 1/4 Box Circulate  
2-places, Allemande Left, Square your set.  
You have stirred the bucket
3. Heads Square Thru, Swing Thru, Boys Run,  
Couples Circulate 2-places, Bend the Line,  
Pass Thru, Wheel & Deal, Star Thru and  
Back away, You have stirred the bucket  
for a singing call.
4. Heads Right & Left Thru, Pass the Ocean,  
Extend the Tag, Recycle, Reverse Flutter Wheel,  
Veer Right, Couples Circulate 2-places,  
Bend the Line, Right & Left Thru, Pass Thru,  
Wheel & Deal, Centers Star Thru and back away  
You have stirred the bucket
5. Heads Flutter Wheel and Sweep 1/4, Double  
Pass Thru, Track Two, Swing Thru, Boys Run,  
Bend the Line, Pass Thru, Wheel & Deal,  
Centers Star Thru and Back Away you have  
Stirred the bucket for a singing call.
6. Heads Lead Right Circle Four to a line,  
Touch a 1/4, Single File Circulate, Boys Run,  
Right & Left Thru, Pass to the Center,  
Square Thru Three, Allemande Left,  
Square your Set. For a singing call.
7. Heads Square Thru, Swing Thru,  
Boys Run, Half Tag, Trade,  
Girls Extend to a Wave, Boys Face  
Right, Check your Diamond, Girls  
Swing Thru, Center Girls Run, Girls  
Half Tag Trade and Roll Step to a Wave,  
Check your Diamond, Diamond Circulate  
Boys Swing Thru, Center Boys Run, Boys  
Half Tag Trade and Roll, Step to a wave,  
Flip your Diamond, Spin the Top, Single Hinge  
And Roll, Right & Left Thru, Pass Thru,  
Wheel & Deal Centers Star Thru and Back away,  
You have Stirred the bucket for a singing call.
8. Heads Pass Thru Separate Around One to a Line  
Star Thru, Double Pass Thru, Centers in All  
U-Turn Back, Touch 1/4Men Only Track Two  
Girls Half Tag and Trade, Couples Circulate,  
2-Places, Ferris Wheel, Centers Star Thru  
and Back Away. Stirred Up for singing call.

## Leaders Face Right - Trailers Face Left

1

HEADS LEAD RIGHT...TOUCH 1/4...CENTERS CIRCULATE...CENTERS RUN... BEND THE LINE...PASS THRU...WHEEL & DEAL...ZOOM.~.DOUBLE PASS THRU GIRLS FACE RIGHT - BOYS FACE LEFT...BOYS CIRCULATE...BOYS RUN... COUPLES CIRCULATE...TAG THE LINE...GIRLS FACE RIGHT BOYS FACE LEFT...BOYS TRADE...TURN THRU...LEFT ALLEMANDE

2

ALL FOUR REVERSE FLUTTERWHEEL (Boys Go)...PROMENADE--DON" T STOP..  
SIDES WHEEL AROUND...PASS THE OCEAN...BOYS CIRCULATE.~.  
SWING THRU...BOYS RUN...TAG THE LINE - IN...PASS THRU...  
TAG THE LINE...BOYS FACE RIGHT - GIRLS FACE LEFT...BOYS CIRCULATE SINGLE HINGE...GIRLS FOLD...DOUBLE PASS THRU...BOYS FACE RIGHT GIRLS FACE LEFT...GIRLS TRADE...BOYS RUN...PROMENADE HOME

3

HEADS LEAD RIGHT...CIRCLE TO A LINE...PASS THRU...TAG THE LINE...  
LEADERS FACE RIGHT - TRAILERS FACE LEFT...BOYS RUN...TOUCH 1/4...  
CIRCULATE...BOYS RUN...FLUTTERWHEEL...PASS THRU...TAG THE LINE...  
LEADERS FACE RIGHT - TRAILERS FACE LEFT...SINGLE.HINGE...  
BOYS RUN...PROMENADE

4

SIDES PASS THRU...SEPARATE - AROUND ONE - LINES...PASS THRU... TAG TH-  
LINE...LEADERS FACE RIGHT - TRAILERS FACE LEFT... ENDS CIRCULATE...SWING  
THRU...CENTERS RUN...TAG THE LINE... LEADERS FACE RIGHT - TRAILERS FACE  
LEFT...CENTERS CIRCULATE... BOYS RUN...SLIDE THRU...LEFT ALLEMANDE

AMERICAN CALLERS ASSOCIATION  
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THIS MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY FOR THOSE THAT DO NOT NEED OR ALREADY HAVE A BMI & ASCAP LICENSE

**NON-LICENSED & INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Country \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Years Instructing \_\_\_\_\_

PH (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One CALLER: \_\_\_\_\_ ROUND TEACHER/CUER \_\_\_\_\_ CONTRA PROMPTER \_\_\_\_\_

This is a Full Membership in AMERICAN CALLERS with voting rights.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE IS \$50.00. Make checks payable to AMERICAN CALLERS.

**NO MUSIC PERFORMANCE LICENSE OR INSURANCE IS INCLUDED. JUST MEMBERSHIP.**

**LICENSE ONLY**

April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010

**ASCAP/BMI Licensing Thru AMERICAN CALLERS ASSOCIATION**

This license is offered at cost plus an administrative fee. In USA only

**For Square Dance Callers, Round Dance Cuers and Contra Prompters ONLY**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Years Instructing \_\_\_\_\_

**BMI/ASCAP Music License**, fifty dances or more per year: \$ 144.00

*If you join After October 1, 2008 fifty or more dances:* \$ 116.00

**BMI/ASCAP Music License**, fifty dances or less per year: \$ 102.00

*If you join After October 1, 2008 fifty dances or less:* \$ 80.00

**Group Liability Insurance**, optional \$2,000,000 coverage: \$ 25.00

**Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Make Checks Payable to AMERICAN CALLERS and mail to address below

P.O. Box 2406 Muscle Shoals, AL. 35662-2406

E-MAIL [Mac@Americancallers.com](mailto:Mac@Americancallers.com) Web Page <http://www.americancallers.com>

**BMI/ASCAP LICENSE**

THROUGH  
**AMERICAN CALLERS ASSOCIATION**  
The National Association of Dance Leaders  
Phone: 256-383-7585; Fax: 256-383-7583

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**AMERICAN CALLERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Ray Brigance  
Vice President: Tom Davis  
Vice President: Paul Marcum

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**AMERICAN CALLER has two schedules: Fifty Dances or Less and Fifty Dances or More.** (No restriction on number of dance events over fifty.) The fifty or less and fifty or more fees apply **ONLY** to Callers, Round Dance Teachers, and Contra Prompters. **(The Clogging Fees are one price: Fifty or more with no restriction on number of dance events.)** **GO TO THE WEB PAGE TO COUNTRY-WESTERN on line registration for license for other forms of dance**

**Membership Application and BMI/ASCAP Registration**  
**April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010**

\_\_\_\_\_ 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-Prorated and Non refundable.

<b>FIFTY DANCE EVENTS (OR LESS)</b>	<b>\$ 144.00</b>
If you join <i>After October 1, 2009</i>	122.00
<b>FIFTY DANCE EVENTS (OR MORE)</b>	<b>\$ 186.00</b>
If you join <i>After October 1, 2009</i>	156.00
<b>CLOGGING (ONE FEE FIFTY OR MORE)</b>	<b>\$ 186.00</b>
If you join <i>After October 1, 2009</i>	156.00

**Make check payable to AMERICAN CALLERS and mail to, P. O. Box 2406, Muscle Shoals, AL 35662**

Note: Liability coverage is \$2,000,000 all claims & information on insurance must be directed to the ACA office

Member or spouse badges are: \$6.50 each for pin back and \$8.50 each for magnet back. Price includes postage. Badges will be shipped direct from our badge maker.

For faster service, include self-addressed, business-sized, stamped envelope. Please allow 30 days for receipt of license. Please feel free to copy and distribute this application.

