

The Guardian



Last Chance Squares, Helena, Montana - February, 2023 - Volume 14

Club Dance Dates:

Feb 11th - BHB - Valentines
25th - BHB

Mar 11th - BHB - St. Patricks
25th - BHB

April 22nd - BHB - Spring Fling

May 13th - BHB

Summer Dances TBA

New Dancer Lessons

Feb 6th - Hawthorne
13th - Hawthorne

Mar 6th - Hawthorne
13th - Hawthorne
20th - Hawthorne -



SEW ON & SEW FORTH

By Karen Reichardt
www.squaredancesewing.com



Are You a Real Square Dancer?

The following was copied from the book "A Time to Dance" by Richard Nevell printed in 1977. When you read old books and articles on square dancing it is amazing how much remains the same.

One of the most striking aspects of the modern western square dance is the costuming, which is especially unusual for the men who normally do not get to dress in bright colored, cowboy style outfits. But like the dancing, the costumes - or dress code - has become largely standardized, certainly reflecting a uniformity of taste, and sometimes in style. Madeline Allen wrote editorials in a magazine called "Square Dance, Where?" which primarily lists where dances are occurring in northern California. In an October 1956 essay entitled "Are You a Square Dancer?" she wrote:

"I have been asked several times to comment on wearing special clothes for Square Dancing, and to explain why we think it's important. Of course there are some obvious reasons...Square Dance Styles are fundamentally beautiful styles. They are gay, colorful and becoming...but there is another side to it as well. We feel that as long as a person chooses clothing with the mental reservation that they can also be worn for other things than Square Dancing he or she is not really with it. As long as you keep one foot on the bottom of the pool you are not really swimming...you always seem just about to back out. Women who do not care enough about square dancing to make or buy at least one real Square Dance dress haven't really yielded yet...they are not sold on the whole idea. Once you have made a real investment in Square Dancing...not only lessons, but dresses and shirts and boots...the chances of your dropping out are much lower. So we say...let yourself go! Let yourself have a good time, and be a real 'Square Dancer'."

I call these people 'closet square dancers'. They do not go to dinner before a dance wearing square dance clothing. They don't want it known that they are dancers. I leave my petticoat in the car when I go out to eat because 60 yards of fluffy makes it difficult to get between the tables, but I wear my dress, my badge and my club jacket with the big logo.

A friend came up to me one time and said, "You look good in square dance dresses." I puzzled over this and decided, I am happy in square dance dresses. I am going to a party. Just as 'suing up' in uniform gives sports team members a mental boost, 'dressing up' for a square dance puts you in an excited party mood.

We did a demo dance at the fair. It was disappointing because we didn't have a lot of watchers. After the demo, four of us gals, in full fluffy square dance attire, walked around the fair. A lot of people stopped us and comment on our outfits. This was an

I used to be able to cartwheels. Now I tip over putting on my underwear.



Hate it when I see an old person and then realize we went to high school together.



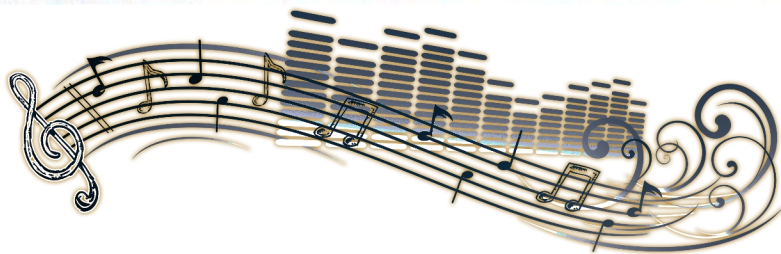
I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes..... so she hugged me.



My wife say I only have 2 faults. I don't listen and something else.....



I thought growing old would take longer.



opening to talk about square dancing and hand them a flyer. We handed out more flyers on our walk than we did at the demo. We are planning to do a walk around before the demo next year.

A fashion magazine printed, "Never wear colors that can be seen from outer space." Obviously, they had never been to a square dance. Tired taupe, boring beige and banal black are for the office or scrubbing the oven. When you go out to a dance wear your best and brightest. Too much lace – no such thing. Plaid and floral – looks great. This is a place to wear your brightest favorite fun color.

We have been very fortunate to gain a large number of teens and twenties. A few took lessons last year and started recruiting friends. They asked for and received a special set of summer lessons called "Blast Class". All the mainstream moves in 2 1/2 hours, once a week, times seven weeks. They think fast, learn fast and dance fast. Now Blast Class graduates are bringing friends and families to regular fall lessons.

We have an 'Experienced Clothing' donation closet. The new younger dancers are snapping up the full fluffy petticoats as fast as we get them. Their high energy dancing really makes the skirts fly. They are the fastest growing segment of our population. They love the astro bright colors and the spins and twirls.

If you dress like a square dancer, you feel like a square dancer, if you feel like a square dancer, you are a real square dancer.



Taco Spaghetti

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 1.5 lbs ground elk, venison, beef or turkey
- 1 package of taco seasoning
- 2/3 cup of water
- 1 (10.5-oz.) can of Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 (10-oz.) can of Rotel diced tomatoes and green chilies (undrained)
- 1 (8-oz.) package of Velveeta cheese cubed in 1/2 inch cubes
- 1 1/2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS:

- 1 Cook the pasta, drain, and set aside
- 2 Cook ground meat in a skillet over medium heat. Remove any excess fat, add taco seasoning and water. Cook for 5 more minutes
- 3 Add Velveeta, Rotel tomatoes/chilies and cream of chicken soup. Reduce heat and stir until cheese melts.
- 4 Stir in cooked spaghetti. Transfer to an ungreased casserole dish, cover with cheddar cheese, and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes uncovered.
- 5 Enjoy

So-Good Casserole

- 1 lbs. ground beef
- 1/3 c. chopped onions
- 1 can tomatoes
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1.5 lb spaghetti
- 1 c. corn

Brown beef with onions: add tomatoes, and salt. Cook spaghetti, drain, then place in casserole layered with corn and beef-tomato mixture. Bake at 350 for one hour. serve.



Free Hug Coupon

Good for one Free Hug

Redeemable from any participating person

Expiration Date: 12/31/2008

I spend a lot of time holding the refrigerator door open looking for answers



Live Lively -



Square Dance!

SQUARE DANCE

ETIQUETTE

by
Madeline
Allen

SQUARE DANCING has always been a free-and-easy activity. Almost anything goes in the way of costumes, hoots-and-hollers, and noisy enjoyment. At the same time, square dancing has now come "out of the barn" once and for all, and in the process it has acquired a Code of Etiquette peculiar to itself. It is unfortunate that a lot of the present day callers who teach classes have lost sight of this fact, and now spend too much of their time on how to get from one spot in the square to another on a given command, and not enough time on how to act so that other square dancers will want to dance with you. This is especially important because of the First Rule of Square Dancing — no introductions are needed at a dance because all square dancers are already friends.

Our etiquette is not difficult — most of its rules are based on simple courtesy and consideration for other dancers. If you are reading this page, you are probably already a square dancer, so you know most of the rules from observation. You know that square dancers are always clean and neat and sweet-smelling, and don't eat garlic or drink before a dance, and are friendly to everybody.

You know also that once you are in a square, you don't walk out of it because someone you don't like joins it. (You didn't know that?

You ought to be ashamed.) But there are a lot of points that are less obvious, and that ought to be taught by someone, somewhere along the line. Here are a few I feel very strongly about.

How about the question of filling up the squares? In my book the only proper thing to do, when you walk out on a dance floor, is to join the first square you find that wants another couple, or, if all are full, to start another and call for three more couples. I will allow you to walk out with one other couple, in order to dance together, but not with a full square, obviously arranged ahead. You should never walk past a square to get to another one you like better. (Did you know that?) This rule is particularly important at "Big Affairs," where the floor is crowded and the people with flags are trying hard to fill up squares where needed. Don't be choosy — don't even *look* choosy. You want to dance with everybody there — remember?

Another problem that seems to me to come under the heading of "etiquette" is the case of the couple who, perhaps for good reasons, has decided to sit this one out, and then sticks to it, to the bitter end, no matter how long the crowd calls for "just one more couple" to fill out a square. Don't misunderstand me — I would be the last one to forbid anyone to

Breaded Pork Chops

- 1 egg
- 1 T barbecue sauce
- 1/3 c dry breadcrumbs
- 2 t grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 t dried oregano
- 1/8 to 1/4 t lemon-pepper seasoning
- 1/8 t onion salt
- 2 bone-in pork chops (3/4 inch thick)

In a bowl, combine egg and barbecue sauce; mix well. In another bowl, combine breadcrumbs, cheese, oregano, lemon-pepper, and salt. Dip chops in egg mixture, then coat with breadcrumb mixture. Place in a greased 8-in square baking dish. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Bake, uncovered at 325° for 1 hour or until juices run clear. Yield: 2 servings

How to parallel park: 1) Park somewhere else

So-Good Casserole

- 1 lbs. ground beef
 - 1/3 c. chopped onions
 - 1 can tomatoes
 - 2 tsp. salt
 - 1.5 lb spaghetti
 - 1 c. corn
- Brown beef with onions; add tomatoes, and salt. Cook spaghetti, drain, then place in casserole layered with corn and beef-tomato mixture. Bake at 350 for one hour. serve.

sit out a dance, for any reason, but I do think it ought to be done less offensively. If you just don't care much about dancing this one but are willing to fill in if needed, sit down until called. But if you are exhausted, and nothing is going to budge you, then hide. Go outside, and stay there until the caller actually starts calling. If only one of you feels that way, then *you* go out, and leave your partner to dance with someone else, if necessary.

I had always assumed that a lone man at a square dance was in luck, because if he wanted to dance, all he had to do was to ask any lady. The lady may refuse, if she is tired or is waiting for her husband, but she will not object to being asked. But a man from another State recently told me that where he came from, if he asked another man's wife to dance, there would be a fight, right there! But around here, it would be safe. And it has been my experience that ladies temporarily deserted by their husbands (usually callers outside yakking together) can often find a man who is not dancing because his wife's feet hurt, or something and who doesn't object to being asked either. (He can always say "no" — that is allowed too.) But you notice I said "temporarily deserted". This does not apply to women who can't get their husbands to dance, or who haven't any — in other words, to permanently deserted ladies. You don't have to dance with your husband all the time, but you are supposed to get him to the dance, to keep the numbers even — or else you should join a Singles Club. After all, square dancing is and should be primarily a couple activity.

The Caller's Wife

This brings up another point — that perennially deserted lady, the caller's wife. I am not talking about your club caller — his wife can stay home if she wants to, or come and help, and in any case she knows the members and can dance if she likes. But when you invite a caller from a distance to take over for one night, and his wife comes with him, it seems to me that it is up to the floor committee to see that she has an opportunity to dance if she wants to. (Sometimes she doesn't — but she still ought to have the opportunity.) Too often, one or two club leaders ask her for a dance apiece, and the rest of the time she just sits there. I would like to see something like an old-fashioned dance program filled out for the guest caller's wife, whereby

someone would be responsible for each tip — to offer himself for the dance, or just to sit and talk. Here is a case where a club may give an impression of rudeness, just because the committee does not realize that any action is necessary.

Another etiquette question that seems to me to need a little clarification is, when is it permissible to stop dancing what the caller is calling and start playing tricks? Here again, courtesy and consideration are the keynotes. Some people, who seem to think that dancing "straight" is too easy for them, start making up their own rules, and do things like cutting corners, promenading across the set instead of around, and skipping courtesy turns entirely.

If you are in your own club and everyone there dances the way you do, then such antics, while boring, are not offensive. But suppose you are a guest at another club, or assisting at a beginners' class, or even at an open dance? By not doing a movement right, you may disconcert a less skilled dancer, and cause him to goof, to his embarrassment. By doing a Star Thru instead of a courtesy turn at the end of a Ladies' Chain, you may really shake up a lady who is not expecting it, or even hurt her arm. If your club does high kicks (Heaven forbid!) at least they are expecting it and know how to defend themselves, whereas a stranger may get his glasses broken.

Even fairly simple maneuvers like exchanging squares with another couple during the promenade work only with someone else who knows how to do it. In other words, make sure you are dancing in your own group before taking liberties with standard square dancing. There is nothing entertaining about the picture of an expert throwing a less skilful dancer into confusion.

One last rule — applaud the caller and thank the square you danced with. Some people seem to think that applause is unnecessary — after all, why applaud yourselves? That is not what you are doing. Maybe you did dance the square well — but just who do you think the Star of the performance really is? If you want your caller to continue to knock himself out for your entertainment, show a little appreciation, and let him hear it. And no matter how bad a square of dancers you may have been in, at least they did dance with you — and that in itself calls for a big "Thank You!"