

Hudson Valley Dancer



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Hudson Valley Council Fall Dance



December 5, 2015

Katonah Methodist Church Hall, 44 Edgemont Rd., Katonah, NY

Caller: Jim DeNigris (substituting for Roy Leber)

Format: 1-3:30 PM Alternating mainstream and Plus

3:30-4 PM Dancers of the year & announcements

4-5:30 PM Alternating A1/A2

Admission \$10.00

For information, contact Steve at: nysdancer53@gmail.com or 914-736-3863

From the desk of the Editor

This is the first issue of the re-formatted Hudson Valley Dancer. This is a no frills, no ads newsletter. Although I will be bringing back certain aspects of the former magazine. I would like to start a new, ongoing series of articles relating to calling and dancing, authored by Sandy Corey.

The things I would be bringing back are little blurbs from the clubs about upcoming dances, or members of the club. With the advent of the monthly dance lists on the council website, I created a few years ago, there will not be any dance schedules included. You will have to download from the council website. For the non-computer dancers, I ask that someone from the club print out a copy of this newsletter for those members. I will have a link to the monthly lists, but that's all regarding the dance schedules. I hope you like the re-formatted Hudson Valley Dancer.

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Links to the monthly dance lists:

December 2015

http://www.hudsonvalleycouncil.org/december_2015_dance_preview.html

January 2016

http://www.hudsonvalleycouncil.org/january_2016_dance_preview.html

February 2016

http://www.hudsonvalleycouncil.org/february_2016_dance_preview.html

YOU CAN SAVE YOUR SQUARE *by Sandy Corey*

For the first article I've chosen something I feel is important. As a new dancer I was always told to hold hands and keep the square small. As a caller and teacher I've always taught the same thing. However, I was never told to keep my head turned towards the center of the square. When I read this article written by **Ed Foote** from the American Square Dance Magazine, I was surprised. Simply because, as a dancer, I always keep my head turned towards the center of the square! It just seems like common sense to me. Therefore, I felt this was a good choice for a first article, and for all dancers, especially newer dancers. These "rules" make sense! And they're very simple! So read the article, and remember to hold hands, look towards the center and keep your square small. And regarding "rule" number 4, the square will always work itself out to align with the walls.

YOU can save your square! YOU individually can be the person to keep your square going and keep it from breaking down. Here's how to do it:

1. TAKE HANDS WITH THOSE STANDING BESIDE YOU. This must be done immediately after completing every call. Not only does this help you see the new formation of the square, it helps others see it too. If people can see their starting formation, then they are much more likely to complete the next call.

Weak dancers tend not to take hands. This is one reason they are weak. If they break down, they will take you along with them, so it is in your best interest to take their hands, even if they do not offer them.

Important: When hands are joined, **elbow must be bent**. If arms are outstretched when hands are touching, the set is much too large to operate smoothly.

2. KEEP YOUR HEAD TURNED TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE SQUARE. This gives you the big picture, it lets you know exactly where you should be, where trouble spots might be starting, and whether you should speed up or slow down your steps in order to keep everyone together.

The majority of the time your head will be turned to the right, since many calls are presented in a counter-clockwise flow which has the square moving to the right. But looking to the left will also be necessary.

Weak dancers use tunnel vision. They just look straight ahead and hope they will survive the next call. It only takes 2 or 3 dancers in the square who have their heads always turned toward the center to keep the square going. Decide that YOU will be one of these people.

Bottom line: Your head should be constantly in motion while you dance, always looking for the big picture. Do this and YOU will save your square.

3. KEEP THE SET SMALL. Basic rule: The smaller the square, the fewer the breakdowns. There are several ways to keep the square small.

A: Take hands after every call. B. Bend your elbows when you take hands.

C. Take small steps. This will force other dancers to also take smaller steps, and thus the square becomes smaller

4. ALWAYS HAVE YOUR SQUARE LINE UP WITH THE WALLS.

Sometimes a set will become slightly offset from being lined up with the walls; now a cast off or other turning motion may cause some people to become disoriented, which can cause them to break down on the next call. If the caller says "Promenade, don't slow down, heads (*or sides) Wheel Around," it is almost guaranteed that the square will not be lined up with the wall. You can slightly over-or under-do the next few calls and you will find that the set will align itself with the walls. Other dancers will go along with you, even if they don't know anything about walls.

Note: If the caller sees you making an effort to try and get the square

aligned with the walls, he/she will know you are a good dancer and will watch you for the entire dance. It's a nice feeling to know that the caller needs you to successfully complete his/her program.

SUMMARY: If you do everything listed here, YOU will save your square. You will also become recognized as a good dancer who knows what's going on.

Club information

Acey Deucey

Russian Orthodox Church
617 Sand Creek Rd.
Colonie, NY 12205-2451

Programmer: Ken Ritucci

Ken Ritucci

(413) 734-0591

kenritucci@aol.com

Boots 'n' Bows

Slater Chemical Firehouse (Dances)

76 Old Glenham Rd.

Glenham, NY (Fishkill NY)

Programmer: Pat O'Donnell

Myers Corners School (Classes)

156 Myers Corners Rd.

Wappingers Falls, NY

Ron McMurdy

(845-462-2945)

ronmcm@optonline.net

patdance@aol.com

(845) 440-0351

Friendly Squares

United Methodist Church hall (Dances & Classes)

44 Edgemont Rd.

Katonah, NY 10536-1532

John Phillips

jsp71@optimum

Tee Cotter

(914) 433-2919

teecotter@aol.com

Mark Watanabe

(914) 689-1333

Grand Squares

United Methodist Church Hall
44 Edgemont Rd.
Katonah, NY 10536-1532

Pelham Promenaders
Christ Church (Dances)
1415 Pelhamdale Ave.
Pelham, NY 10803-3312

Programmer:
Pelham Memorial High school (Classes)
18 Franklin PL. Pelham, NY 10803
Pelham Town Hall (Alternate location)
20 Fifth Ave
Pelham, NY

Rocking Roosters
Edmund Town Hall (Dances)
45 Main St.
Newtown, Ct. 06470-2134
Programmer:

Newtown United Methodist Church (Alternate location)
92 Church Hill Rd.
Sandy Hook, Ct. 06482

RocklandRockytops
West Nyack Firehouse (Dances)
45 Strawtown Rd.
W. Nyack, NY
Nanuet High School cafeteria (Classes)
103 Church St.
Nanuet, NY 10954

Single Funtimers
Katonah Methodist Parish Hall
44 Edgemont Rd.
Katonah, NY 10536-1532

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Seymour Smith School (Dances)
41 Academy St.
Pine Plains, NY 12567

Nancy Finkle
(845) 758-8372

The joy of dancing is not centered on the price we pay, but what we earn from dancing is priceless. When we dance together we share the love of music, rhythm and song, we dance in the joy of friendship and we learn together the wisdom of leadership. Come dance with me and be my friend.

Excerpt from the NEC website. Gordon & Marianne King.

Club News

RocklandRockytops-Joan Schierlitz

It gives us great pleasure to announce this year's RocklandRockytops Dancers of the year for the Hudson Valley Council. They are Pat Lutter and Maureen Santamaria. Pat and Maureen are regulars at all of our mainstream dances and are wonderful ambassadors of square dancing, in general, and Rockytops in particular. They attend many other club dances throughout the year, and in addition, they are conscientious angels, who give generously of their time at virtually all of our classes.

Congratulations Pat and Maureen on this well-deserved honor!

RECIPROCATION

I graduated in 1990. Since then, dancers thought that I must belong to several clubs simply because they saw me at almost all dances. That is not the case. I have always believed in 100% loyalty to one club.

New dancers should be encouraged to dance at other clubs. It is important for them to get the experience of hearing other callers, who put material together a little differently perhaps than their own teacher/club caller. Other callers also have different voices and perhaps accents. But many dancers don't travel to other clubs, or go to conventions. How can you meet other dancers if you don't travel? That's why it's important to do so. If you visit their club, they will most likely reciprocate. That would equal better attendance at everyone's club dances. NNJSDA (Northern New Jersey Square Dance Assoc.) calls it "one square is fair" and that seems like a good idea – having at least one square visiting a different club.

It is also a nice thing to meet other people. Square dancing is a great way to make new friends. But in order to do that, you have to go outside your comfort zone perhaps, and visit another club.

Square dancing is one of the cheapest forms of entertainment. It's exercise without paying gym fees! You did make an investment when you started lessons, now you've graduated, so let that investment pay off for you now! Have fun and go visit other clubs!

Steve Ocskasy

