

Contra Meeting – Nov. 23, 2003

Here are the decisions the community made regarding the question of whether and how to have local callers for some of our Saturday night dances.

1. We will have local callers for 3 of our 12 Saturday dances.
2. Each of the local callers will ask the dancers to give them feedback one evening per year. The caller will decide, within reason regarding possible scheduling complications, when and with what band he or she would like to do this. The dancers will give feedback by completing a card. (See content of the card on the back.) The completed cards will be given to the caller to review.
3. At a callers meeting, the callers will review the feedback each of them received, talk about ways each of them could improve their calling, and select 3 callers for the Saturday night dances. That part of the callers meeting when they critique one another will be limited to callers. Other than that, all callers meetings will be open to anyone who wants to attend.
4. We will schedule a Callers Workshop sometime next year. We will invite an experienced and respected national caller, someone the callers would like to hear, to lead the workshop. We will also invite callers from dance communities in this region to attend. This would be an opportunity for callers to learn from a well reputed caller. We would do this in conjunction with a Saturday dance, with the workshop scheduled for earlier on Saturday or possibly Sunday.
5. Since it will take a while to implement the caller feedback process, as soon as possible the callers will choose one caller for the January -June 2004 Saturday dances.
6. Another possibility was discussed but no decision was made: schedule a time when a group of very experienced dancers would allow themselves to be guinea pigs for the callers to practice on. Callers could practice more complicated dances or other changes that they would like to make in their calling and get immediate feedback from the dancers.

FEEDBACK CARD

How Am I Doing?

Name of caller _____

I'd appreciate comments to help me improve my calling. Please respond briefly to the following categories.

Rank from 1 -5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how you think I did this evening in the following areas:

Timing _____

Energy level _____

Program/dance choices, considering the experience level of the dancers _____

Clarity of instruction _____

How well the dance choices fit the music _____

What do you think is the strongest part of my calling?

What is one thing I could do to improve my calling?

Your name (optional) _____

How long have you been dancing _____

Thanks.