

Self Improvement Techniques by Bill Harrison

Self-improvement is a continuing process. Today's caller need a thorough knowledge of square dancing's past, a professional alertness to its present, and a realistic sensitivity to its future. Continuous education is necessary to be able to focus on new ideas in ways to improve your calling skills.

CALLERLABS Mission is "Foster The Art of Square Dance Calling and Improve Caller Skills"

Here are some resources for self improvement

1) Educational Materials:

a) Book on our Heritage and dance activity

Dancing for Busy People by Cal Campbell
Step By Step by Jim Mayo
Folk Dancing by Erica Nielsen

b) Magazines

American Square dance

c) Choreography note service

The New England Foundation has many of the note services of the 70' and 80's. The link is <http://www.sdfne.org/>

d) CALLERLAB website <http://www.callerlab.org/>

"Directions" and Leadership Articles

ECTA (European Caller Teacher Association)

[http://www.ecta.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=section
&layout=blog&id=2&Itemid=35&lang=en](http://www.ecta.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=2&Itemid=35&lang=en)

e)MP3 past CALLERLAB Interest Sessions
ECTA Library

f)<http://Knowledge.calleralb.org>

g)Behind The Mike -Barry Wonson-PO Box 1819, Wollongong 2500, NSW.
Australia bjwonson@gmail.com

2) Record/Video your performance

- a)Provides information about the dance
- b)Tempo of the music
- c)Choice of music, which ones danced well
- d)How you sound with different styles of music, patter and singing calls

- e) Shows how your posture is while calling
- f) Shows how you look, your appearance
- g) Shows where your hands are while calling
- h) Shows how you react to dancers

If Possible, dance to the recording to help understand body flow, hand availability, choreography and how it felt to the dancers.

3) Continued Education

- a) Attend caller school
- b) Attend CALLERLAB Convention or Mini Lab
- c) Attend regional Leadership seminars (ECTA)
- d) One on one critique with accredited Caller Coach
- e) Consult a mentor and or partner

f) Learn other methods of choreo management

Teaching techniques:

a) Learn different teaching ideas, such as:

two couple teaching

show the movements scheduled to be taught demonstrated by an experienced square.

Use teaching tips from CALLERLAB

Visit other instructors lessons

Learn to teach in a shorter span (less weeks)

Example of teaching experiments, example: Boomerangs

4) Evaluate Others

a) Attend dances, listen to singing calls and choreography ideas

b) Attend live performances to evaluate showmanship ideas

Conclusion, the more you put into self improvement the more satisfying the enjoyment of calling will become not only for you but for the audience you are entertaining.