FOREWARD

This little pamphlet is prepared for your information by the TEXAS STATE FEDERATION OF SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS in the hope that you will become a SQUARE AND ROUND DANCER and enjoy all the fun and fellowship that this fine recreation has to offer.

Believing that SQUARE AND ROUND DANCING is a force for good in our state and is a means of providing wonderful and lasting friendships, your local Square and Round Dance Association and clubs strive to increase the number of dancers. We believe, simply, the more SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS, the more fun for all.

Please read this pamphlet through and think about your situation. Could you use more fun in your life? When you start SQUARE AND ROUND DANCING you will start having the most fun you’ve ever had.

SQUARE DANCING IS FUN

SQUARE DANCING has a long and interesting history. In short, it evolved from the Old European court dances and was brought to America in colonial times. It went west as an American form of folk dance, and today we have modern SQUARE DANCING which is enjoyed worldwide. Nearly 20,000 persons attend the National SQUARE DANCE convention yearly, coming from all fifty states and numerous foreign countries - all at their own expense. This fact in itself depicts the amount of enjoyment SQUARE DANCING has to offer.

One of the marvelous things about SQUARE DANCING is that although it is a traditional American activity, it is as modern as today and as fresh and as challenging as tomorrow. It is also a great relaxer to help combat the pressures and tensions of our present time.

Today’s SQUARE DANCE bears little resemblance to the oldtime dance - and for very good reasons. While the SQUARE DANCE of a century ago was allocated to the barns or small and sometimes uncomfortable meeting places, today’s SQUARE DANCING takes place in some of our cities’ most beautiful structures, in church auditoriums, in parks and recreational buildings, and in air-conditioned private halls. Like the rest of the country itself, SQUARE DANCING has grown out of the barn. It fact, it is now an official Folk Dance of Texas and thirty-seven other states and it is NOT the dance you did in third grade. There are over 400 clubs with more than 20,000 dancers in Texas alone.

ROUND DANCING

In a similar fashion, the folk or couple dances such as Schottische, Polka, or Varsouvienne (Put Your Little Foot) that were frequently done by couples at the old-time dances have been updated to modern ROUND DANCE. These ROUND DANCES are dances by couples in a circle or in concentric circles around the dance floor. ROUNDS usually alternate with SQUARES during an evening dance program and consist of various rhythms such as two-step, waltz, fox trot, tango and cha-cha. In addition, there are ROUND DANCE clubs that meet regularly just to ROUND DANCE.

LINE DANCING

Many clubs today also teach and alternate the popular Country Western Line Dances with the Squares or Rounds during the evening dance program.

SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE CLUBS

SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE clubs are formed to fill the DANCING urge of a group of people. Most clubs dance weekly while others dance only once or twice a month. Whatever their schedule, it is always a gala night where you meet many people and get to know them well. Most clubs have a certain caller or instructor who calls or cues all the dances during an evening. Most dancers belong to at least one club, some to two or three.

Visitors are welcome at most clubs and you can dance with the members while visiting. In this way you can "circulate" and get to know all the callers and a great many dancers. At these club dances the squares and couples are usually mixed several times during the evening. In this way you will meet members of the club and you will enjoy dancing with different people.

WHAT TO WEAR?

One thing that makes folks like SQUARE DANCING AND ROUND DANCING so much is its informality. You just can’t be stiff and formal and learn to dance.

For lessons, dress for comfort. Ladies wear low-heeled shoes with a skirt, dress, or pants. For you men, no coat or tie; a pair of slacks or Levi’s with a long sleeve shirt will just about fix you right up. After lessons, you may want to get a little fancy with dresses & full petticoats for the ladies and boots, western trousers and western shirts for the men.

SQUARE DANCERS

It is difficult to describe the average SQUARE DANCER. They come from all walks of life and are good, clean, tolerant, and lovable citizens. SQUARE DANCERS enjoy camaraderie and common ties found in very few groups of people. To another SQUARE DANCER, wherever he may be, your only recommendation to him need be that you are a SQUARE DANCER.

If you happen to be in a strange town, find a SQUARE DANCER and you have found a ready made friend. He’ll only want to know your first name, where you are from and would you like to dance tonight, and what can he do to help you?

SQUARE DANCING is not merely executing calls to the beat of the music. It is something one feels within one’s self. You acquire a sense of "belonging" which gives deep satisfaction. SQUARE DANCING requires a good amount of teamwork and friendly cooperation. So, you see that it is hard to describe SQUARE DANCERS. Even if you never SQUARE DANCE, your life would be richer for having known them. We’ll just leave it this way: you’ll never regret entering into the fun and fellowship that will be yours as a SQUARE DANCER.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO SQUARE OR ROUND DANCE?

This is a question of interest to anyone who would like to participate in any form of entertainment. It is naturally a first question.

SQUARE OR ROUND DANCE clubs usually ask $2.00 to $4.00 per person a lesson, which are usually held one night a week for about 20 weeks. After classes, comes membership in a club that meets on a regular basis two or four times per month. Most club dues are usually $10-$25 per couple per month and cover all regular club dances.

Special dances are held periodically and the cost varies from $3-$10 per person, depending on your area and type of dance. In some areas, the special dances are free and in others, the cost may be higher dependent upon facility and caller expenses. In any case, it gives you approximately three hours of enjoyable entertainment, often dancing to the calling of a nationally known caller. You can’t beat it!

DANCING AND THE CHURCH

Many churches of several denominations sponsor SQUARE AND ROUND DANCING as part of their recreational facilities. This is especially so for teenagers. It
is a useful instrument in combating delinquency because it is a recreation in which large groups may participate and let off steam and excess energy. Teenagers are in no mischief when SQUARE DANCING. Grown-up folks are not either, for that matter. It is a stimulating recreation for both mind and body. Have no qualms if your youngsters want to SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE. They will be in good company. Many of the oldest SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE clubs had their origin in church groups and they are still going strong. Many areas have clubs which are solely for teen members. The Federation sponsors a scholarship program for graduating teen dancers. The program usually awards several thousands of dollars in scholarships each year.

DRINKING - SQUARE AND ROUND DANCING

Although other type of dances often allow alcoholic beverages, Drinking has no place in SQUARE AND ROUND DANCING. THERE ARE NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT SQUARE AND ROUND DANCES. SQUARE AND ROUND DANCING is done in an air of clean conviviality and fun - with no drinking. A square of eight dancers are depending on one another to execute the calls and one who has had a drink or two is certainly not welcome.

SQUARES

You can come to a dance as a couple and there will be someone for you to dance with. Most experienced dancers do not like "set" squares. They like to mix and mingle, meet new friends, form a different square for each set. Many lasting friendships have been formed by strangers just dancing in the same square.

Half the fun of SQUARE DANCING is the fellowship that is developed while dancing in a square with six other people you do not know. They will not be strangers after the first set. Don't worry about a square, if you want to dance there will be a square waiting for you!

How to get started?

CALL THIS NUMBER!

If no local number listed, call toll free: 1-877-TXDANCE
Or check our homepage:
http://members.tripod.com/~ttsrd/

We're Saving A Place For You!

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TEXAS STATE FEDERATION OF SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS®

Square and Round Dancing
Is Fun for Everyone!

Be A Participator:
Not a Spectator.