



## Club 50 Program Information

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### What is it?

- The Club 50 Program is Jerry Story's revision of the Rio Grande Callers Association's solution to instructing dancers who were in their area for only 10 weeks.
  - The program recommends 12 weeks of initial Standard Application instruction for nearly all of the CALLERLAB Basic Program and about half of the Mainstream Program.
  - Associated with the program is the *Club 50 national movement* (which is gaining momentum) to *reconstruct the destroyed base of today's Square Dance Activity (MWSD)*. Jerry Story is leading the way as chairman of the CALLERLAB Sustainable Square Dance Committee. **Stay Tuned!**
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### What are some of the Problems Club 50 Seeks to Address?

- Establish a Thriving, Enthusiastic, Dancer Base by Providing a Solid, Easy to Achieve, Entry Level
  - Reverse Downward Trend Through Widely Available Quality Instruction
  - Improve Dancer Competency With Core Calls
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### What's Wrong with the Current Entry Level?

- Provision of *only one annual class* fails to produce sustainable growth.
    - Existing Clubs consistently *lose money* teaching beginners Plus (typically in 9 month classes with additional follow up workshops.)
  - 9 month classes are *not marketable*. The up-front commitment for a new dancer is a hard-sell.
    - The opportunity for new dancer enthusiasm to spill over onto friends who will become new recruits is often lost; when new dancers are most excited about the activity, no new classes are available.
  - Expectations of results are too high.
    - The amount of material to learn is daunting. Missing one class makes it difficult for the average dancer to return and continue. Missing more than one makes it almost impossible.
    - Upon class completion, is it fair to expect a new dancer to dance as well as a 10 year veteran?
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### Does a Downward Trend and a Quality Problem Actually Exist?

There should be no argument that Modern Western Square Dancing (MWSD) is in a downward trend and has been for some time. The current structure has *destroyed* our *base*; we must reconstruct that *base*.

- Current recruitment is pitiful. Many clubs are ecstatic to graduate just a handful of new dancers.
- Quality of instruction *suffers* from lack of time to properly teach. Dancers are constantly presented with new material before they are ready for it. They are not allowed to relax and just dance while the important things sink in.
  - Current instruction trends have fallen into preparing dancers to dance a set of rote patterns. Things like the grace and beauty of flowing



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movement to the music, and adeptness with fundamentals are often ignored or at least take a back seat these days.

- Quality of instruction *suffers* from lack of knowledge or lack of clear goals.
  - Most callers tend to do what the club [*employer*] says it wants; often times this is confused by the fact that the club doesn't really know what it wants or can't agree upon what it wants.
  - Many callers don't do their homework, or have lost interest in finding new, efficient, and fun ways to teach.

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**Does Dancer Competency Really need to Improve, and How Will It Change Anything?**

- Dancers are happiest when they have *good experiences*. Would you rather dance in a *good square*, having fun and moving smoothly, or a *bad square*, constantly breaking down?
- Many *unhappy* dancers seek happiness in a higher program, often before they are ready. This dilutes the intent of that program and eventually makes dancers in that program *unhappy* as well. Their solution may be to try the next higher program and perpetuate a vicious cycle. As a result, *no program* holds its integrity.
- Increasing competency in our base should go a long way toward keeping that base intact, sparking interest in both dancers and callers, and creating frontiers for choreography that dancers can handle.

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**Club 50 Seeks to Rebuild the Base.**

- Short class times and potential for staggered starts means we can offer a *marketable* product.
- Recruitment will benefit from the enthusiasm of our current student dancers when that enthusiasm is at its highest peak. Friends will not have to wait a whole year before they can get involved and join the fun.
- A more *compact* and *focused* program with eventual exposure to Extended Applications (EA) will allow dancers to actually master the calls and gain confidence that there is depth and much fun to be had within Club 50. Dancers will be less likely to seek *fulfilment* in a higher program before they are ready.

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**Club 50 Seeks to Become the Destination Dance Level in Southern California.**

- Club 50 *can* replace Plus as the entry level destination. Most of today's Plus level dancers are challenged by the Club 50 Program when competently presented. They have already been exposed to it without their knowledge and without their complaints.
- Some will want to continue with "Plus" and stick to the traditional Zero2Plus teaching and recruiting methods. This should not interfere with the Club 50 Program in action; who has more potential to increase numbers – Club 50 or Zero2Plus?
- Enthusiastic crowds breed *enthusiasm*. As Club 50 gains success and increases its base, dying Plus clubs can instead adopt Club 50 principles and rebuild their base. *Healthy* Plus clubs no longer need train absolute beginners. They can instead offer Club 50 to Plus *transition* instruction for dancers who are skilled, ready, and desirous of moving to the full Plus program.



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**What Are the Next Steps to get Club 50 Started in Southern California?**

- Leaders need to determine in detail how Club 50 will be implemented. This must be documented and made available to anyone with interest.
- Callers who want to participate need to be on the same page as to what constitutes Standard and Extended Application. The CALLERLAB Sustainable Square Dancing Committee is creating this important document.
- A template for the Club 50 Dance structure needs to be developed and agreed upon.

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**What Could A Club 50 Dance Look Like?**

This is a straw man suggestion of the structure of a Club 50 Dance. This needs to be discussed and an acceptable dance template developed.

- Calls are presented primarily with smooth, flowing, Standard Applications.
- A Club 50 dance should have no more than 3 exposures to the presentation of calls with Extended Applications.
- One or two *disposable* calls may be presented at a Club 50 dance, taught early on and used for the duration.

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**How Do We Address Extended Applications?**

Today's Dancers might think of EA as DBD. There is some truth to this, however, EA allows for the proper understanding and teaching of the CALLERLAB definitions, which help callers create a much more creative, entertaining, and smooth dancing experience.

- EA in the Club 50 context refers to any *smooth dancing presentation* that is also *CALLERLAB definition compliant*. Club 50 expects that most of these uses *will not be covered during Standard Application instruction*.
- Standard Applications (SA) need to be well documented. Any smooth CALLERLAB definition compliant application outside of that document should be considered *Extended*.
- EA should still be treated like *pepper & spices* – a little goes a long way, and not everyone enjoys spicy food. Annual EA and *Mainstream* transition classes will be offered to dancers who wish to move on once a strong Club 50 base has been established.

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**Where do I Learn More?**

- To learn more about the National movement, contact Jerry Story (website: <http://www.jerrystory.com>).
- Current leaders in the SoCal area are Charlie Robertson, Shauna Kaaria, Carrie Masters, Dan Clairmont, Rick Hampton, and Michael Haworth.
- General Information can be found on <http://www.saveSquareDancing.com>. Watch for further details about Club 50 Newsletters in your area and subscribe.





## Club 50 List

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1. Dancer Naming:
  - A. *Partner/Corner*
  - B. *Heads/Sides*
  - C. *Couple #1,#2,#3,#4*
  - D. *Boys/Girls*
  - E. *Centers/Ends*
2. Circle Left/Circle Right
3. Forward & Back
4. Dosado
5. Swing
6. Promenade Family
  - A. *Couples (Full, 1/2, 3/4)*
  - B. *Boys/Girls/Single File*
  - C. *Wrong Way*
7. Allemande Left/Arm Turns
8. Right & Left Grand family
  - A. *Right and Left Grand*
  - B. *Weave the Ring*
  - C. *Wrong Way Grand*
9. Left Hand Star/Right Hand Star
10. Ladies Chain Family
  - A. *Courtesy Turn*
  - B. *Two Ladies Chain (reg. & 3/4)*
  - C. *Four Ladies Chain (reg. & 3/4)*
  - D. *Chain Down the Line (After #39)*
11. Rollaway/Ladies Center, Men Sashay
12. Star Thru/Slide Thru
13. California Twirl
14. Pass Thru/Double Pass Thru
15. U-Turn Back
16. Square Thru/Left Square Thru (1,2,3,4)
17. Grand Square
18. Right and Left Thru
19. Dive Thru
20. Lead Right/Lead Left
21. Veer Left/Veer Right
22. Couples Circulate/Couples Trade
23. Bend the Line
24. Flutterwheel/Reverse Flutterwheel
25. Sweep a Quarter
26. Wheel Around/Reverse
27. Circle to a Line
28. Split Two
29. Separate/Around 1-2-3
30. Wheel & Deal
31. First Couple Go Left/Right, Next Couple Go Left/Right
32. Zoom
33. Ferris Wheel
34. Half Sashay
35. Box the Gnat
36. Ocean Wave Family
  - A. *Step to a Wave*
  - B. *Dosado to a Wave*
  - C. *Balance*
  - D. *Allemande Left in the Alamo Style*
37. Pass the Ocean
38. Extend (from 1/4 tag only)
39. Trade Family
  - A. *(Named Dancers) Trade*
  - B. *Partner Trade*
  - C. *Couples Trade*
40. Trade By
41. Swing Thru/Left Swing Thru
43. Run/Cross Run
43. Hinge/Touch a Quarter/Couples Hinge
44. Circulate Family
  - A. *(Named Dancers) Circulate*
  - B. *All 8 Circulate*
  - C. *Split/Box Circulate*
  - D. *Single File Circulate*
45. Centers In
46. Cast Off 3/4 (Lines & Waves)
47. Tag the Line (In/Out/Left/Right)/Half Tag
48. Fold/Cross Fold
49. Scoot Back
50. Recycle (from a wave only)