

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.

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

Zip Coder

Set In Order

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

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

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

4) Evaluate Others

- a) Attend dances, listen to singing calls and choreography ideas
- b) Attend live performances to evaluate showmanship ideas