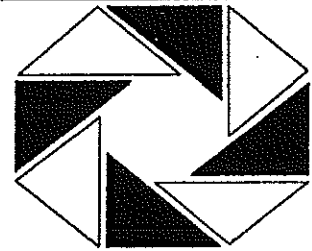


OCTOBER 89

THE TRIANGLE STAR

Toronto Triangle Squares
c/o 28 Sackville Place
Toronto, Ontario, M4X 1A4



Tips for fun Tips, at all levels

By Andrew Chow

The start of our third season brought a new and successful format: a new Mainstream/Plus class on Tuesday night and the traditional bread-and-butter Basic class on Thursday night. From early indications, both classes have attracted large number of dancers, who are interested in learning and reviewing the material from the different levels.

Most people, being enthusiastic and eager, especially the people from the Plus level, usually dance both nights. I would suggest to these eager beavers if they could be angels and help the new dancers. Instead of squaring up with old flames who can dance the night away, please square up with the new dancers. A recent article in the Western Star's newsletter discussed the mechanics and probabilities of a square breaking down in mid-tip. It has been clinically proven that more experienced dancers can prevent square breakdown, and tooth-decay. So be an angel and meet new people, please.

For your enjoyment, here's a quick and easy way to assess your Angel Index, A.I. for short:

When a dancer in your square suddenly goes into a trance, do you:

1. scream at the top of your voice
2. join in the meditation
3. gently bring the dancer back to earth, and into the correct formation, without losing a beat

When a dancer consistently breaks down a square, for any number of reasonable reasons, do you:

1. refuse to be in the same room, much less the same square as the person
2. ignore the dancer and hope the problem will disappear
3. patiently explain the correct movements after the tip is over, without interrupting the caller, nor hurting the dancer by twisting off limbs and bruising flesh and ego

Add up the number next to the answers that you chose. If the sum is two or less, hot climate is probably more suitable for your next vacation. If the sum is three or four, then cloud nine isn't ready for you. If the sum is five or six, your are an angel.

A Point of Dance Etiquette- At the beginning of a new tip, introduce yourself to dancers in your set that you don't know. Friendliness is one of the best aspects of square dance activities!

Chicago Crossfire Chronicle
(Sept. 15-18)

By Andrew Chow

The team of Andy and Andy caused great confusion in the City of Chicago in a recent weekend. Not only do they have similar names, they also look remarkably alike. Fortunately, our Chicagoan hosts accepted us with humour and neighbourly friendliness. The Great Chicago Crossfire weekend began with Find Your Flame at the Wellington Avenue Church on Friday night, Sept. 15. The caller responsible for starting off a most enthusiastic crowd towards a most energizing weekend was Sandra Bryant. Her remarkable patterns required concentrated efforts, especially after a hectic flight from Canada's busiest airport, Pearson International to North America's busiest airport, O'Hare. It really helped to have delicious food at the dance to invigorate the old dancing shoes.

On Saturday, our generous hosts, George and Greg took us on an architectural adventure of Chi-town's famous innovative skyscrapers, starting from the unique stretch of lake front parkland. The most impressive, however, is the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, which contains the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall. The architectural detail in that building was beautiful; the buildings all over the city are full of elegant details. Even the Golden Arches can be unique in Chicago: there is this little Mac near the Chicago River on Ontario Street that is totally covered in Nostalgic and Rock'n'Roll memorabilia, from pictures of the King, to the Beatles, and get this, Superman changing in a phone booth.

More dancing was installed for us with Fan the Flames on Saturday night. The dance hall

was fabulous, the food was fabulous, the dancing was fabulous, the callers, Sandra Bryant and Lin Jarvis were fabulous, but best of all, the costumes were fabulous. Our own I. Juana Donis debuted her new finds during the earlier shopping adventures in the chic boutiques of Chicago. After the dancing, many carried on to Carol's Speakeasy to evaluate the performance of the Dreamteam. I heard afterwards that they were of long, oops I meant, high calibre.

Sunday was sleeping in and sauntering out to the Smouldering Flames at Carol's Speakeasy for a banquet of a buffet, and more dancing. Caller Paul Infanti put us through our paces in any which way but loose: especially those dodge back, walk left. It's enough to confuse a poor soul with hangover on his mind.

In spite of the aspirin and tired tootsies, the weekend had been wonderful. According to the latest unofficial estimates, there were 91 people from 36 cities registered this year. For moi, I sure look forward to the Crossfire II scheduled same time next year.

Styling Tip:

Couple Handhold-Men should always turn palms up, ladies palms down. In the event of same sex handholds, the left hand dancer turns palms up.

Drag Tips for Drag Tips-

by Crystle Chandalier
Speaking of styling points, girls, don't wear 2 foot beehive hairdos while square dancing. With all that hairspray you could slit your partner's wrist when California Turning.

I. Juana Donis Takes Chicago
by Don Cheff

I recently attended "Crossfire" the Fly-in hosted by the Chi-town Squares of Chicago, and I had so much fun that I just had to tell you all about it.

I arrived Wednesday evening, going earlier in the week as I'd never visited Chicago and wanted a chance to tour more extensively. My delightful host picked me up at Midway Airport and we got along famously, giggling and being silly the whole weekend!! Mike ended up billeting four other people, so it was certainly cosy in his apartment, even as spacious as it was! His place was in the northern part of the city, in an interesting enclave, easily accessible by the Loop(subway), with lots of greenery around. But then, Chicago is very green to begin with, and has an incredible lake front, with beach running most of it's shore, and in fact too, the city seemed very people oriented.

I did lots of window shopping in such places as Bloomingdales (Oooooooooohh!), and Marshall Fields, and wandering down upscale Michigan Avenue, or the Miracle Mile as it's referred to! And, I also managed to put together a drag outfit for the dance on Saturday evening at

the Polish Hall. Wait until you see this get-up guys, it's wonderful!! (I intend to wear it for Hallowe'en as well, so stay tuned!!). It was fun putting this ensemble together, and although I wasn't expecting to go in drag, I found some really interesting pieces at Second Hand and Nostalgic Shops as well as the Western Clothing store, and, well, I guess I just got carried away!!!

We danced in some great spaces on the weekend, and the Chi-Town Squares were quite

organized it seemd to me. They also had some stupendous callers, one of whom was their own club caller who was really excellent at sight calling and threw us a few loops and surprises as well, which made it that much more challenging and fun! I guess the number of people attending was about the same as we've had at our Fly-ins, some 120 or so, and a good mix of dancers and levels. I didn't try any Advanced tips, but I did seem to dance mostly Plus tips, which were very high energy and high caliber.

On Sunday afternoon we danced at an interesting bar called Carole's Speakeasy, though it seemed to me that we had just left there!! Some of us were there the evening/morning previous where I was ignoring some boring and ugly strippers, but me and a couple of real cuties were dancing up a storm to some really hot songs!! Something had to be hot as the strippers certainly weren't!!

A bunch of us were also at Touché, the leather bar of North America! As it was a full moon, they were celebrating with a "bare your buns" sort of evening, and there were many men doing so, in their leather thongs or chaps, or..., I declare it's warm out here on the patio...where's my fan...!! No I didn't seem to get much rest over the weekend but sure had a hell of a good time exhausting myself square dancing and visiting wonderful Chicago!!! Thank you's to the Chi-Town Squares for a fantabulous weekend!!!

P.S. from Miss Crystle;
Start saving your mad money now for the convention in Vancouver on Easter weekend. Yours truly has missed such events because .. OOOH! Look at that pretty bolo tie! See what I mean.

Square Dance Term-

Home-For each man, his starting position in the square; for each lady, the home position of the man with whom she is at the time of the call.

Dancing at Chicago
Crossfire

Andy Chong

In between touring Chicago with our gracious hosts from Chi-Town Squares, and doing some shopping, I also did a fair amount of dancing. There were three sessions (Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoon), plus a Plus review for the attendees. They were also starting their fall classes, and invited the beginners to come and watch.

Of the ninety-plus dancers, maybe one third each were at the Mainstream and Plus levels, and the remainder split between A1 and A2 (or above). Usually Mainstream and Plus tips alternated, though there was one A1 tip in each session. It was fun watching the experts transfer the column, chain reaction, and do various more complicated patterns. Between tips there was two-stepping music that some of the more energetic danced to. There were also line dances, including a specially created "Crossfire Shuffle".

A benefit of dancing to different callers included learning to do the various callers' favourite tricks. While I could usually hold my own in the Plus calls, I kept tripping over some uncommon Basics. One was a Right and Left Grand from facing lines. Another was a Reverse Flutterwheel with girls in the boys' position. Unlike classroom situations, there are about one hundred different

steps and variations that the callers can throw out without walking them through. Knowing all the moves and being quick and flexible is necessary, though it helped when I got into a strong square and everyone knew what he/she was doing. It looks like we need more practice dancing, not just learning the steps!

AS you may already have noticed (if you haven't, open your eyes) we have been playing two-step music (or ears) in between square dance tips. We encourage everyone to join in as it is quite a popular activity at fly-ins and conventions. If you want to learn don't be afraid to approach someone who is dancing, we don't bite unless that's what you want, then... Also some of our members and cloggers go to Rawhide on Friday night and get in some practice. Come and join in the fun! The more the merrier! REMEMBER... SLOW SLOW QUICK QUICK (and oh! the heartache in those songs... Oh lonesome me..)

For the November issue please mail submissions to the mailing address or give them to Steve or Ken by October 23!!

