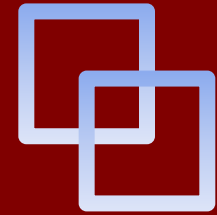




Ken's Korner



8th Quarterly Edition : August 2016

In This Edition

[Welcome](#)

[National Conventions](#)

[Traveling with Ken](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[Web Site Link Page](#)

[66TH National Square
Dance Convention](#)

[Ken's Web site](#)

[Contact Ken Ritucci](#)



Welcome to another edition of "Kens Korner" newsletter. It has been a busy few months since the last edition and my apologies for being late with a new edition. Springtime came and went in a flash, and now its almost the end of a long and hot , but fun summer. I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer months. Soon it will be the Fall season and many clubs will be starting beginner lessons.

I am excited about the continued response of dancers, callers, and cuers who want to receive the newsletter. I thank all of you. The Spring and Summer months have been busy with calling and dancing, many good festivals have come and gone once again. So, what's happening in your area regarding square dancing?

One big event that is approaching is my [Northeast Callers School](#) to be held October 6-10 in Sturbridge Massachusetts. This is the first year the school will be in Sturbridge, Mass. Previously it has been held in Manchester, NH. Staff includes Steve Kopman, Bill Harrison and Walt Bull. Whether you are a new or experienced caller, this school has a program to fit your personal needs. An application can be found on my web site www.kenritucci.com

*****ATTENTION***** There is still space available for the upcoming [2017 HAWAII CONVENTION](#). Please click the link or visit my website (www.kenritucci.com) for a flyer on this exciting event. We would love for you to come with us next February. An optional, second week will be available for a week long cruise around the islands. Plan to join us!

Nationals

In This Edition

[Welcome](#)

[National Conventions](#)

[Traveling with Ken](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[Web Site Link Page](#)

[66TH National Square
Dance Convention](#)

[Ken's Web site](#)

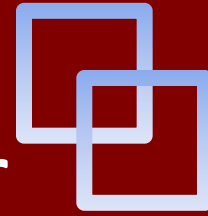
[Contact Ken Ritucci](#)

8th Quarterly Edition:
August 2016

Page 2

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

Ken's Korner



The 66th National will be held in Cincinnati next June 21-24, 2017. Please make plans to attend. For more information visit www.66thnsdc.org

While there are many great weekends and festivals held around the country each year, here are some of my upcoming favorites:

The Tumbling Leaves Festival held in Bennington Vermont October 14-16, 2016. This is always a fun festival with a great staff.

The Harvest Moon Festival held November 18-20, 2016. This will be held at the Yorketowne Hotel in York, PA. Another outstanding staff.

Autumn Adventure A2 weekend (C1 Star Tips) with Ken Ritucci and Eric Henerlau. This will be held November 18-20 2016 in Plymouth, Indiana. Flyer is available on my web site (www.kenritucci.com)

The annual New England Convention will be held April 21-23, 2017 in Warwick, RI. Many callers and cuers will be there. This is always a fun event.

AACE will be held June 16-18, 2017 in Indianapolis. This is for dancers who dance A2-C4. A great staff will be there, top Challenge Callers from all over.

These are just a few weekends that are coming up in certain areas before the end of the year. Space does not permit listing all of them around the country.

Traveling with Ken

In This Edition

[Welcome](#)

[National Conventions](#)

[Traveling with Ken](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[Web Site Link Page](#)

[66TH National Square
Dance Convention](#)

[Ken's Web site](#)

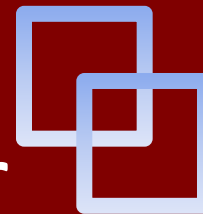
[Contact Ken Ritucci](#)

8th Quarterly Edition:
August 2016

Page 3

TRAVELING WITH KEN

Ken's Korner



Since the last edition of Kents Korner, my travels have taken me to Atlanta for a C1 Blitz Teach Weekend, Denver, California, Oregon, Minnesota, Texas, and a big three week trip to Australia. I was in Atlanta as well as Denver twice. Great places to visit.

In addition to attending the CALLERLAB Convention in March, I also called with Darryl Lipscomb at my annual April Adventure C! Weekend in Indiana as well as My C2 Weekend at Cherry Ridge in Honesdale, PA. In May I called the Mid-Tex Festival in Georgetown, Texas as well as visiting Australia for the first time.

Australia was a great trip, I was in Melbourne for the first 10 days and then flew north to Queensland for the rest of the trip. I called several dances and conducted a 3 day Callers Conference with Steve Turner and Paul Bristow. I was fortunate to stay at the Mantra Hotel/resort on the Pacific Ocean with a room on the 16th floor overlooking the ocean. There is a heaven after all LOL.

In July, Sue and I along with her children and Matt McGovern (Caller from Massachusetts led a group of dancers on a week's cruise to Bermuda. The weather was great and everyone had a good time. Bermuda is simply beautiful this time of year.

In September I look forward to going back to Germany for a week of calling. This time we will be in Dusseldorf, staying with good friend Oli and Andrea Kuester. I also look forward to starting Beginner Classes for my club, the [Riverside Squares](#) in Danvers, MA.

My C1 Club, the KenCentrics, is growing. We are now up to 3 squares! Time is now spent workshopping more DBD but it's been a great deal of fun. The group is doing quite well. We meet every Thursday at the [Hayloft Barn in Sturbridge, Massachusetts](#).

Some new upcoming events planned for 2017 that might interest you include:

1. [January Jackpot C1 Weekend](#) with Todd Fellegly, January 13-14, 2017, Sturbridge, MA
2. [Medford Magic Weekend](#) in Medford, Oregon September 8-9, 2017 with Jet Roberts, this is a Plus Weekend with an A2 Session
3. [Atlanta Adventure C1 Weekend](#) with Bill Harrison, Atlanta GA October 13-15, 2017.

Flyers on all of these events are on my web site (www.kenritucci.com) I hope to see many of you there.

In This Edition

[Welcome](#)

[National Conventions](#)

[Traveling with Ken](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[Web Site Link Page](#)

[66TH National Square
Dance Convention](#)

[Ken's Web site](#)

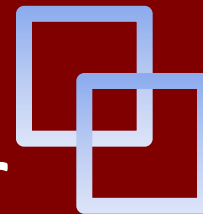
[Contact Ken Ritucci](#)

8th Quarterly Edition:
August 2016

Page 4

FEATURE ARTICLE

Ken's Korner



The Time is Now

At the CALLERLAB Convention in March, Chairman of the Board Vernon Jones gave a short but powerful speech about the importance of recognizing the fact that our activity needs to help correct itself from the inside. He didn't use the exact words "from the inside," but I will.

He drove home his point by using the phrase "And The Time Is Now," meaning that we need to do something about retaining dancers in our activity. How many beginner classes have you seen where the students (for the most part) take the lessons and then they disappear. Where did they go? We don't quite know the answer to that, there are all sorts of theories etc.

Vernon's intent was to make sure (and leading by his example) that we need to put the dancers first, and it would not be important years from now what positions we all held within the activity. The activity needs to wake up to the fact that we have enough trouble getting new dancers, but perhaps even more important, we are killing (to some degree) those within the activity. Unfortunately, this usually includes new dancers.

"The Time Is Now" for clubs and callers alike to do something about the "Rush to Plus," about turning out poorly taught dancers, about not giving the new dancers adequate time to get their feet wet and dance what they have learned.

I have written about this subject before. There is a reason "Club 50" is beginning to take off in parts of the country. Mainly because it takes too long to learn the entire Mainstream Program (And usually just in standard formations and arrangements) and for the most part, the dancers are ill prepared to do club dancing when they first come out. Programs such as Club 50 etc. are starting to appear because some leaders feel that we need a more viable entry level program, keep the dancers dancing for 1-2 years before they move on. Unfortunately, in many parts of the country, that is not happening.

In This Edition

[Welcome](#)

[National Conventions](#)

[Traveling with Ken](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[Web Site Link Page](#)

[66TH National Square
Dance Convention](#)

[Ken's Web site](#)

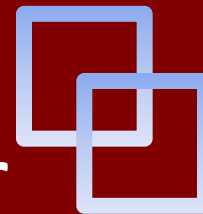
[Contact Ken Ritucci](#)

9th Quarterly Edition:
August 2016

Page 5

FEATURE ARTICLE (cont.)

Ken's Korner



The Time Is Now (CONT.)

We, as an activity, are impatient . There is this underlining desire to proceed to the next program, without first really learning the previous one. In general, many callers do not have the experience to deliver a solid, 50 basic dance because either they have never been trained or they are too lazy to learn their craft.

If clubs and callers are satisfied with dancers who are not proficient enough to dance the Mainstream program, then they have come to the right place. Personally, the more I dig into the existing Basic Program, and work on being more creative with the calls that are already there, the more fascinated I become with calling such material. But, it takes time and work. Callers need to learn their craft, if they are new, they should ask for help from an established caller. Clubs need to accept that the word "Mainstream" is not a bad word, and given the right circumstances, an interesting but at times challenging evening of Mainstream can be just as fun as an evening of standard position Plus. It's not getting any better folks; we can produce stronger dancers if we all come together to work it out.

The Time Is Now.

Web Site Link Page

In This Edition

[Welcome](#)

[National Conventions](#)

[Traveling with Ken](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[Web Site Link Page](#)

[66TH National Square
Dance Convention](#)

[Ken's Web site](#)

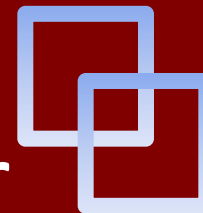
[Contact Ken Ritucci](#)

8th Quarterly Edition:
August 2016

Page 6

WEB SITE LINK PAGE

Ken's Korner



- [Link](#) **Gay Square Dance Clubs** . Strong fun Dancers: Annual Gay Convention held each year usually around the 4th of July. The next convention will be held in Palm Springs CA June 30-July 3, 2017. www.iagsdc.org
- [Link](#) **Looking for a place to dance somewhere in the world?** www.wheresthedance.com
- [Link](#) **Vic and Debbie Ceder's site.** Probably one of the biggest web sites in our activity, Vic's site has a great deal of information on callers, clubs etc. literally around the world on this site. www.ceder.net
- [Link](#) **CallerLab.** This site is not just for callers, many dancers frequent it to print out definitions and dance lists of the Programs Basic through C3A. www.callerlab.org
- [Link](#) **Traditional and Square-Dance (ARTS)** formed by the Alliance for Round, encompasses squares, rounds, contra, and traditional dancing. www.you2candance.com
- [Link](#) **Round Dancing:** For professional cuers and round dancers. www.roundalab.org
- [Link](#) **Dosado:** Information for callers, cuers, and dancers. Check it out! www.dosado.com
- [Link](#) **Animation and Call Definitions** This is a great tool! It can be added to your smart phone as well. <http://tamtwirlers.org/taminations/info/index.html>
- [Link](#) **Challenge Convention AACE:** The largest challenge convention in the US. <http://www.ceder.net/ace.php4>

Recreational Park Links

www.cherryridgecampsites.com
(Honesdale, PA)

www.square dancing.net
(Mesa Arizona)

<http://www.rgvsd.com/>
(Rio Grande valley in Texas)

www.mcclouddancecountry.com
(McCloud, CA)

www.kirkwoodlodge.com
(Osage Beach, MO)

<http://www.prideresort.com>
(Maggie Valley, NC)

Callers Black Book Page

In This Edition

[Welcome](#)

[National Conventions](#)

[Traveling with Ken](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[Web Site Link Page](#)

[66TH National Square Dance Convention](#)

[Ken's Web site](#)

[Contact Ken Ritucci](#)

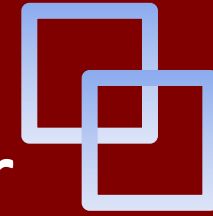
8th Quarterly Edition:
August 2016

Page 7

CALLERS BLACK BOOK

Also, as a reminder, I do have the [CALLERS BLACK BOOK](#) available for sale. This equals (but is better in my opinion) the Century Book. You can collect signatures of callers, cuers etc. and not even have to dance to them. Great gifts for new graduates. You can purchase them on my web site. \$10.00 each but discounts for bulk purchase.

Ken's Korner



Callers Black Book

BUY NOW - ONLY \$10!

Welcome to the Callers Black Book. We look forward to having you join the Medallion Club by obtaining signatures of your favorite callers.

Here's how the program works:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Obtain 75 signatures
you earn a
Bronze
Medallion |  | 3. Obtain 200 signatures
you earn a
Gold
Medallion |  |
| 2. Obtain 125 signatures
you earn a
Silver
Medallion |  | 4. Obtain 250 signatures
you earn a
Platinum
Medallion |  |

Gold Medallion winners become members of the "Black Book Club," whereupon you will receive an engraved badge with your name on it. Those who reach Platinum status will also receive a Platinum Badge, signifying that you have earned the highest honor in the program. Simply fill out the "achievement page" as you reach each status, and dangles and/or badges will be shipped to you at no charge. This program works on the "honor system," and we wish you luck as you earn your medallions!

[Black Book Link](#)

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