

REVITALIZATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APRIL 2ND 2016

When the Revitalization Task Force formed and then disintegrated, Mary Anne and I decided to pursue the problem of finding ways to boost our club membership.

Our focus was not so much on getting together a class of new dancers in September, but more the ways that the new dancers, starting in late September, could be brought into the club dance nights in the New Year.

Nick decided on a teaching list that introduced new dancers to Mainstream calls as well as Basics in the first 10 - 12 weeks. The thinking here was that when the new dancers joined the club dancing after the Christmas break, there would be enough meat and potatoes to keep the experienced dancers happy and away from the feeling that they were just doing "beginner stuff".

In January, when dancing resumed, the plan was to start the evening off with a general tip - dancing the calls that the new dancers knew. For the next two tips, while the experienced Mainstream danced, Mary Anne would take the new dancers into a separate room and walk them through a new call.

For the rest of the evening, we would all get together to reinforce the new material, review other stuff and just dance and have fun.

To do this required a lot of backroom maneuvering to get the club dancers on side. We were very fortunate to have full support from the experienced dancers. Our first night in January saw 6 Squares on the floor - normally would have seen just two.

The list Nick used does not differ greatly from the West Coast list or the Callerlab accelerated list. The actual list does not matter - just so long as there is a good mixture of Basic and Mainstream taught in the 10 - 12 weeks between the start in September and the Christmas break. Our new dancers were invited to our Christmas Party and we danced at their level.

Now, at the beginning of March, the new dancers are two calls away from experiencing the full Mainstream list, our club dances four and sometimes five squares instead of two and the young dancers are a shot in the arm with their energy and enthusiasm. The biggest bonus? One of the young dancers is learning to call.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick and Mary Anne Turner