

Word Glossary for Members of the North Texas Square and Round Dance Association and the North Texas Callers Association

All Position Dancer – A dancer who has mastered the skills needed to dance in any position within the square, and can properly execute all calls from any appropriate position based on the definition of the call.

Annual Dance – Usually, special dances held only once a year.

Banner Game – A game of banner exchange established as a fun way to stimulate visitation between clubs. To retrieve a banner, the visiting club must take at least eight dancers. To capture the host club's banner, the visiting club with the most dancers present automatically captures the banner. In addition, all visiting clubs with more than eight dancers present are eligible for a banner drawing. A banner will be given to the winner of the clubs whose names have been drawn. Clubs are encouraged to be generous. There are more guidelines to help clubs decide who retrieves and captures a banner (see NORTEX banner game guidelines for more info). The object of the game is to have fun, create a little friendly competition and camaraderie among club members, and encourage visitation.

BMI / ASCAP - Broadcast Music, Inc / American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

BMI / ASCAP License - This is a license obtained at festivals by local callers and cuers through Callerlab, Round-A-Lab, ACA or BMI/ASCAP. This license allows callers and cuers the ability to utilize copyrighted music while shielding clubs from having to purchase their own licenses. When the issue arose, club leaders were worried because BMI and ASCAP were threatening legal action, and that club leaders would be personally liable for hefty copyright penalties. The idea of paying \$20,000 per song was pretty frightening. Although dealings between CALLERLAB, BMI, and ASCAP helped resolve the problem of license costs, a club will only be safe if every caller or cuer has a license when performing at a dance. It is the duty of all clubs to protect themselves by checking with respective callers or cuers to make sure an up to date license has been maintained by either the club or guest caller/cuer in question.

Caller - The role of a caller in modern Western square dance is not only to provide the dance steps which all of the dancers on the floor should be able to follow, but also provide entertainment through a combination of factors, including programming, showmanship, singing ability, and challenging choreography.

Club Caller - A caller that regularly calls for one or more clubs. He or she can also be the club's instructor for lessons.

Local Caller - A caller that calls or teaches within his local city or metropolis.

Guest Caller - A caller that has been invited to call for a dance or a club where he or she is not considered the regular club caller. A guest caller can also be present as a guest at a club dance, and asked to call a tip or sing with the performing club caller.

Regional Caller - A caller that calls and teaches within his or her local city or metropolis and willing to travel and call in other neighboring cities and states.

National Caller - A caller that travels extensively throughout a designated area within the United States calling for clubs or festivals, and basically makes a living by calling.

International Caller - A caller whose travels and calling have taken him or her to more than one single country abroad.

Caller's Cavalcade – Presently, a dance held each year the night before the Round-Up sponsored by the North Texas Caller's Association.

CallerLab – An international caller association that was formed to put the "Dance" back into square dancing through established standardized definitions of calls. It also provides adequate training for callers by determining the calls for each level of dancing, and setting the rules and ethical guidelines for callers to follow.

Clog Dancing - A dance in which the performer wears clogs (tap shoes), and beats out a clattering rhythm on the dance floor.

Contra Dancing - A dance in which a caller guides new and experienced dancers through a variety of calls. The dancer and his or her partner dance a series of figures or moves with each other, and with another couple for a short time. They then repeat the same figures with another couple, and so on. The figures are similar to those of old-time square dancing, and combined in different ways for each of the dances. Contra dancing takes place in sets consisting of two lines with your partner usually across from you in the other line.

Club - An association of two or more people united by a common interest or goal.

Square Dance Club - A club that has organized mainly for the purpose of square dancing. Square dance clubs are a primary organization within the recreational activity of square dancing, and more specifically modern Western square dance. Square dance clubs are primarily, but not exclusively local in character. The main purpose of a square dance club is to give its members a place to dance, as well as promote, grow and introduce square dancing to the local area or community through exhibitions, and hosting square dance lessons.

Round Dance Club - A club that has organized for the main purpose of round dancing. Round dance clubs are a secondary organization within the recreational activity of square dancing. The main purpose of a round dance club is to give its members a place to dance, as well as promote, grow, and introduce round dancing to the local area or community through exhibitions, and hosting lessons.

Clogging Club - A club that has organized for the main purpose of clogging. Clogging clubs are a secondary organization within the recreational activity of square dancing. The main purpose of a clogging club is to give its members a place to dance, as well as promote, grow, and introduce clogging to the local area or community through exhibitions, and hosting lessons.

Line Dance Club - A club that has organized mainly for the purpose of line dancing. Line dance clubs are a secondary organization within the recreational activity of square dancing, but are also noted as a main part of the country Western scene. This dance is taught and performed in dance halls utilizing country, disco, and many other genres of music. The main purpose of a line dance club is to provide its members with a place to dance, as well as promote, grow and introduce line dancing to the local area or community through exhibitions, and hosting lessons.

Club Visitation Awards – An award presented to NORTEX clubs that visit a designated number of other clubs. A specific number of signatures are collected by the club on a card, which when completed is turned in to NORTEX. A patch is awarded to that club for the number of signatures obtained.

Cuer - This person prompts the dancers during a specific song by using choreographed ballroom movements.

ER stands for Early Rounds.

Formula 51 – A program developed by the North Texas Callers Association and the GRaM [Growth, Retention and Motivation Committee]. It is designed to influence and encourage callers and dancers of all skill levels by creating a dance atmosphere using only the first 51 calls on the caller lab list.

Friendship Awards - Friendship awards are awarded to each dancer that visits a designated number of clubs. The dancer keeps a record of these dances by getting his or her card signed when visiting individual clubs. When the card is full, it is turned in to the friendship award chairperson who then presents the dancer with a dangle reflecting the particular number of visits made.

Friendship Dance – A dance jointly organized by two or more clubs as an effort to make new friends and enjoy the friendship that the two clubs share. Commonly, these clubs dance on the same night, and would otherwise not get together on their regular club dance night.

Fun Dance - A dance held to invite prospective dancers to acquaint them with the contemporary style of square dancing, and entice them to take square dance lessons.

GM stands for Grand March.

Grand March - A parade held prior to the beginning of a dance or festival. Couples, clubs, officers, states and/or federations may march together in groups as an entrance procession or a notation of presence. This can be done by organizing the dancers into groups of eight, or is simply used to start a dance allowing the dancers to mix and mingle with one another.

Growth Achievement Award – An award usually presented at the NORTEX officer installation ceremony to clubs that have shown a desire to grow the activity of square-dancing by providing lessons, hosting new dancer dances or workshops, and showing a willingness to visit other clubs unselfishly.

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Hearing Device – An assisted listening device composed of a transmitter and a receiver. The transmitter isolates the caller's/cuer's voice, and sends it to a receiver unit worn by the dancer allowing the hearing impaired dancer to better hear the calls/cues.

Honey Pot/Split the Pot - A fundraising game played at dances. Dancers buy tickets at a price set by the club. The tickets are put into a drawing, and later during the dance a ticket is drawn. The winner receives half of the money collected from the sale of the tickets, and the other half is retained by the club.

Line Dancing - A dance set to music in which dancers line up in a row without partners and follow a choreographed pattern of steps.

New Dancer - Someone that has just graduated from his or her first set of square dance lessons.

New Dancer Dance - A dance held for dancers that have completed square dance lessons.

Non-NORTEX Event - A dance or event not sponsored or sanctioned by NORTEX or a NORTEX Club.

NORTEX [North Texas Square and Round Dance Association] – An organization made up of square dance, round dance, and clogging clubs within the North Texas area.

NORTEX Appointed Officer - One of the officers appointed by the president of NORTEX to perform designated duties for the organization.

NORTEX Elected Officer – An officer nominated and elected to serve in NORTEX as president, secretary, treasurer, and area vice president.

NTCA [North Texas Callers Association] - An organization made up of callers and cuers that call or cue in the North Texas area.

Patter Calls - Also known as "Hash Calling". These calls are based on a quick and fluid succession of spoken "pattered" or sing-song calls often delivered to the accompaniment of an instrumental piece of music that is not necessarily recognizable as a song. Choreography may appear "on-the-fly" with calls randomly strung together, but it conforms to strict choreographic rules. Most patter calls are improvised by the caller while the dancers are moving. The tempo of the calling is done at a fast pace allowing the dancers to flow from one move to another without any pauses whatsoever. The primary purpose of patter calls is to give dancers a challenge by surprising them with unexpected choreography. Many callers are very well known for their ability to put calls together to create a unique, smooth-flowing dance. Some callers are also known for the unusual and interesting formations through which they move the dancers.

Promenade - A monthly magazine published by NORTEX for the membership which provides needed facts and information about upcoming events and dances.

Prospective student - A friend, relative or someone you meet that might be interested in learning to dance.

Round Dance - A dance similar to ballroom dancing that is choreographed and cued by a cuer. Round dancing includes various types of dances such as two step, waltz, cha cha, rumba, jive, bolero, foxtrot, etc. Each can be danced at various phases of skill and experience. Visit www.roundalab.org for more information.

Round-Up – An annual weekend event that is NORTEX's only fundraiser. The weekend consists of a variety of activities including new dancer dance, round dance, workshops, other specialty and square dances at levels such as mainstream, and plus. The Saturday evening dance usually features an internationally well-known caller. Drawings are held in the evening for various prizes.

Singing calls - Calls based on a delivery of calls most often sung to a recognizable melody during which square dance calls are mixed in with the original lyrics of songs. Many widely recognized songs have been turned into singing calls. The primary purpose of singing calls is to help the dancers relax, dance well together as a group, and enjoy the song and caller's

performance. Some callers are very well known for their unique voices, and how well they perform the singing calls.

Square Dance - A dance made up of four couples or eight dancers arranged in a square with one couple on each side of the square facing the center. In most American forms of square dance, the dancers are prompted or cued through a sequence of steps by a caller to the beat of music called square dance choreography, and in some traditions, the phrasing of the music. The caller may be one of the dancers or musicians, but nowadays, he is more likely to be found on stage giving full attention to directing the dancers.

Square Dance Programs:

Basic /Mainstream is the most commonly danced program in North Texas. It is comprised of 68 movements with the first 51 calls being noted as the basic list.

Plus is danced by many dancers and clubs within the North Texas area as well. This program consists of an additional 31 calls that would follow the Mainstream Program.

Advanced is comprised of 50 calls that make up the A1 list, and 39 calls from the A2 list.

Challenge is comprised of 3 dance lists: C1, C2, and C3A.

All of these dance lists and definitions are available at the callerlab website: www.callerlab.org.

Square Funshop - This is a workshop style activity that allows the caller to introduce different dancing techniques or ideas to a group such as six couple squares, progressive squares, old time squares, hexagon squares, tandem couples, etc., or anything that will bring fun and enjoyment to the dance floor.

Student – Someone who is actively taking square dance lessons.

Student Hoedown/Student Dance - A dance primarily organized for students currently taking square dance lessons. The number of calls the students have had will indicate the level of the dance, and may range from calls 1 through 25.

TSCA [Texas State Callers Association] - An organization made up of callers and cuers that live and call in Texas.

Teen Scholarship -- A fund owned and administered by NORTEX. Yearly, one or more scholarships are awarded to high school seniors provided that they have been members of NORTEX for one or more years, and submitted an application by the deadline set forth by NORTEX.

Teen Scholarship Dance - A dance held to raise money for the teen scholarships.

Tip – This consists of two called songs, one of which would consist of a "Patter", which allows the caller to maneuver the dancers through memorized or sighted choreography. The second song can be a singing call set to moves choreographed to any known song, or one you may have heard. A tip can also consist of two singing calls or additional songs, if time permits.

Tip card - A card or slip of paper usually given at the beginning of a dance with tip numbers next to which there are spaces in which individual dancers can write the names of their respective dance partners.

TSFSRD [Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers] – An organization made up of regional associations within the state of Texas that promotes fun and entertainment to any age group through square dancing, round dancing, clogging, contra and line dancing. The TSFSRD hosts an annual festival located in different areas of the state of Texas each year.

Workshop – The practicing or the teaching of a particular call or calls.

WS Stands for Workshop.

Credits and Version

The initial version of the glossary was created by Dave and Loraine Burson, and edited by Ronnie and Ann Montgomery, Larry and Kaye Horstmann, and members of the GRaM committee. It was first published in June 2014.