

## Program Changes for September

*Submitted by Wendy VanderMeulen*

CALLERLAB is the “International Association of Square Dance Callers”. Their two main foci are Caller Training and Program Maintenance. Yes, CALLERLAB is the association that manages the dance programs – Basic, SSD, Mainstream, etc... For the last two and a half years, CALLERLAB has been working on a major change to some of the programs.

Depending on where you are in the world, dancers who joined square dancing may, in their first season (whether it is 8 months or 12 weeks) have been taught Basic A, Full Basic, SSD, or Mainstream – and, in some places, Plus! Beginning this September, instead of having FIVE programs, there will be TWO:

- “Mainstream” will be the introductory program – the one that ALL clubs will use to teach their new dancers.
- “Plus” will be the next set of calls.

Mainstream consists of 50 calls – similar to what Basic and SSD currently have. Plus will also consist of 50 calls. Once a dancer goes through both programs, they will have learned all the calls that are contained in the 5 programs we have now. In effect, they will be what we have *always* called Plus dancers.

How will this impact us? Our newest dancers will hardly notice the difference at all as there will be only one change to what we teach our new dancers – they will no longer be taught Circle to a Line. In its place, they will learn Spin The Top. That’s all!

For the Plus dancers, they will learn a few more calls at the beginning of the fall session to bring them up to the 50 calls that will be part of the program (at the moment, they already have 42 of those calls!).

With all clubs in EOSARDA following the same programs, there will be no more confusion when you see a dance advertised. No more dances offering “Basic/SSD/Mainstream and Plus”. It’ll be “Mainstream and Plus”. Easy Peasy!!!

I am VERY excited about the changes...