

Our Side of the Mic

An article sponsored by the Denver Area Callers & Cuers Association

Bob Riggs ... Summer 2022

Dancing resumed at many of our dance venues. There is still concern by many and precautions are being taken by individuals and by clubs to ensure the safety of our fellow dancers. We encourage those of you that haven't yet attended a dance to venture out and see what happens. I have heard from many, "we don't think we remember enough to dance". Our experience has been your mind thinks you have forgotten how to square dance but your muscle memory will work fine. Everyone that hasn't danced for nearly 2 years has been anxious about attending their first dance. Without exception after the first tip I hear, "we remembered more than we thought we would and enjoyed it". So, attend a dance near you and enjoy your old and new friends in this wonderful activity.

Make plans for your summer to include dancing. Include the State Festival June 10-11, 2022 (in Greeley at UNC) ... Hi Country Weekend, August 5-7, 2022 (Westcliff, CO ... USA West Square Dance Convention, August 17-20, 2022 (San Diego, CA)

With the return of dances to the activity I wanted to reiterate the thoughts about RHYTHM from the last issue of the bulletin. There is quote by Dr. Lloyd Shaw in an article published in the November 1963 edition of Square Dance Magazine, that exhibits some of Dr. Shaw's philosophy.

"Rhythm is the essence of all true dancing! Without rhythm, you are not dancing! And with poor uncertain rhythm you are dancing very poorly indeed. It doesn't matter quite as much with beginners. But with experienced dancers you should become more experienced with rhythm with each step you take. This silent seeking for perfect rhythm will keep you dancing all your lives, and still seeking the truths that lie beyond it. But ignore the rhythm, make it secondary, seek for the outward forms of style only, and you will soon tire of the game and quit forever."

This emphasizes my belief that we must learn to dance to the rhythm of the music we enjoy. Only by dancing to the beat, enjoying the melody and feeling the rhythm of the music can we fully experience the joy of life's rhythm.