

THE GALA BEAT

Ken and I thought it would be appropriate to answer some of the questions often asked.

How are the Guest Instructors Selected? First, there is a standing committee in CRDA appointed by term to do this very job. It is the “Cuer Selection Committee”. People that often attend Roundalab, Nationals, or Conventions are asked to participate on this committee. Exposure to high profile cuers is important. The criteria they used to evaluate a potential cuer are their (1) teaching style, (2) willingness to teach all levels, (3) positive interaction with the dancers, and (4) how they showcase – knowledge and presentation of material. It is also important that a cuer couple is paired with another compatible couple of similar energy levels. When the committee is interested in a cuer couple the availability of that couple is very important. If the cuer couple is still employed in a non-dancing position, they take limited engagements during a year. Some cuers are booked well in advance. As a result, the selection committee will often make contracts with a cuer couple many years in advance.

How are the Phase II-III (2-3) Figure Clinic Instructors Selected? We have not always had clinics in the 2/3 hall. It has been through Gala evaluations and sincere efforts by the CRDA board to continually provide for the advancement of new dancers. Several years ago a letter was sent out to all qualified CRDA instructors to see if anyone was interested in volunteering to run this clinic. The only response was from Paul and Linda Robinson. Even though the Robinson live in Oklahoma, they were CRDA members. The Robinsons were well received by the 2/3 level dancers. Everyone agreed it was a positive arrangement. The Robinsons continued on for at least 3 years in this position. Then the board was approached that we should again make this opportunity available to all CRDA cuers. Letters were again sent out to all CRDA qualified instructors for the 2003 Gala. Again the Robinson responded “yes” along with Chris and Terri Cantrell. The two couples worked well together with one taking the morning clinic and the other in the afternoon. I am pleased to announce that Ed Glenn, as program chairmen, has already sent out letters to all qualified CRDA cuers for the 2004 Gala and the only responses have been from the same two couples. Robinsons and Cantrells will again run the 2/3 level clinic. We are very blessed to have them on board again this year!

Why do we not dance on Sunday morning? Basically the cost! It would cost as much for Sunday morning rental as for all day on Saturday; or an additional \$700 just for rental. There are no other rooms available on campus that would work at all. This has been explored over and over with the same decision. The cuers' fees would also have to be increased. Sunday morning dance would raise each individual registration fee at least twenty dollars. We already have people that feel the present cost is too expensive. And if you are thinking we should look for a new facility, which too has been done. We are very fortunate to have the space at UNC at the price we pay. It is unbelievable what the costs are that some places are asking!

What to wear? First, round dance apparel is always appropriate; however, I want you to know that some couples are thinking about dressing with the Gala theme in mind.

Why are snacks not available at the dance? Anything served has to be purchased through the University and items purchased from them are very expensive.

Where to eat? Do you want a place Saturday noon that is close; one that you do not have to stand in a line waiting for a table? One that avoids getting into a hot (or cold) car and fighting traffic! Then there is the worry about getting back for an afternoon workshop. And most importantly, you may want to get off your tired feet for a spell. Well, I know the place! It is the catered luncheon served at the University just for the gala dancers. The sandwich and salad buffet that was well received last year will be the same menu again this year. The luncheon is not included in the registration fee. It is \$12.00 a plate and lunch tickets need to be bought in advance. So, even if you do not want to pay registration early due to the possibility of bad weather (bite my tongue), get those luncheon reservations made now by sending a check to reserve your spot. It is always easier to sell your spot to someone else, than trying to add additional people to a luncheon already booked.

Where to sleep? Have you reserved your room for the weekend? The Sleep Inn, in addition to having a special price for round dancers, includes a continental breakfast and a soup dinner. You not only get to dance with warm, friendly people, but you can have breakfast with them too. For best results in making your reservations, call 970-356-2180 during the day and ask for the Colorado Round Dance block. Please do not call their 800 number. The Greeley RV Park can be reached at 970-356-6476 or 800-572-2130.

Keep Round Dancing,

Ken and Barb Hardison

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2004 CRDA Round Dance Gala Chairmen