

Evolution of New Calls, The Good Old Days

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By the end of this talk you will better understand where and when we got all our square dance calls.

What is a call?

Who keeps track of the calls?

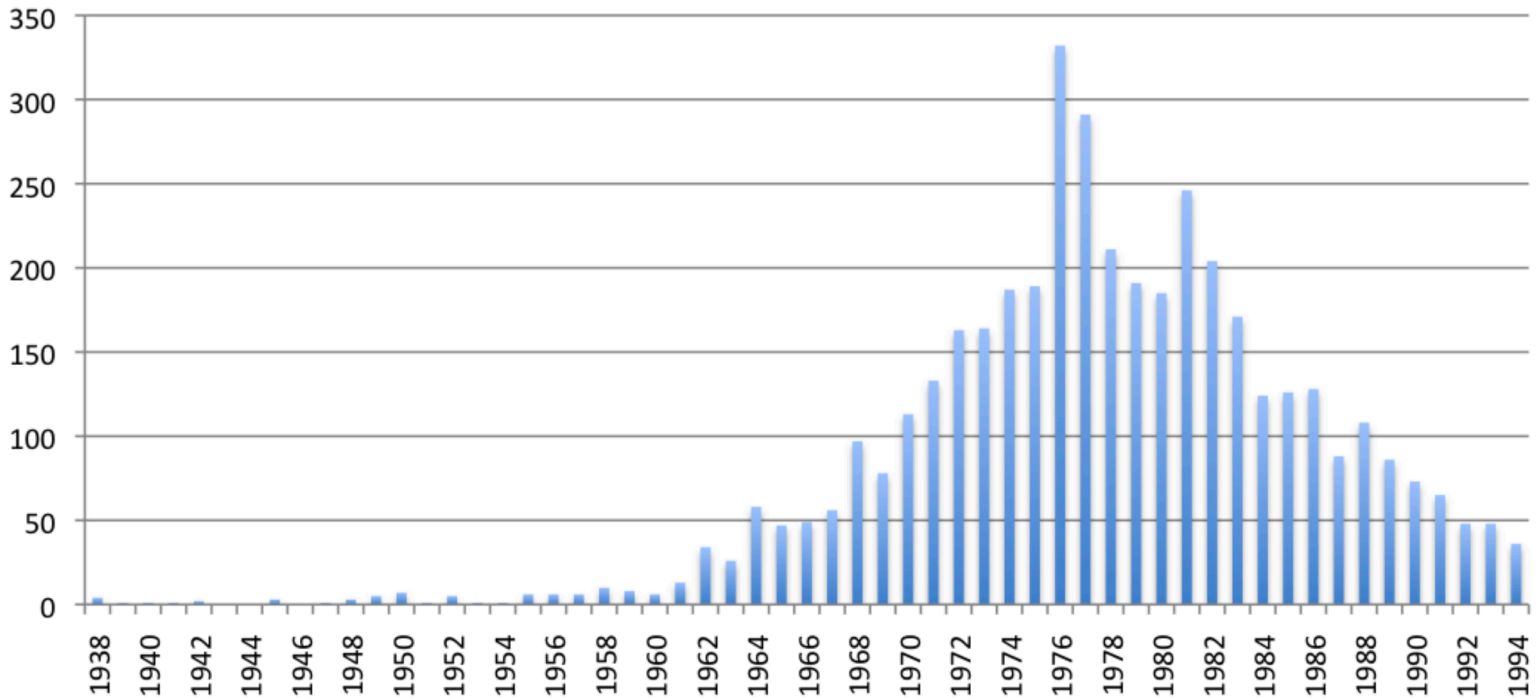
What a typical Saturday night club dance in the 1970's was like with respect to new calls?

In 1970 Burleson says there are 1000 calls and Bob Osgood's booklets describe 50 or 75 calls. Why the huge difference?

How many new calls were created every year?

From 1938 to 1960, less than 10 a year. After that ...

New Calls by year



While we don't have accurate data after 1994, we believe that the rate has continued to be low, perhaps in the 10 to 20 per year. Burleson in 2003 list 5125 calls.

Traveling callers

Callerlab's influence

- Organized in 1971

- First convention in 1974

- One of the strongest challenges facing this new organization was to stem the flood of new calls that had brought frustration to dancers and callers alike.

- Mainstream list established in 1975

- Quarterly Selections (2 per quarter) established in 1978

Caller note services

- 1960's Les Gotcher and Willard Orlich

- 1967 Jay King

- 1971 Jack Lasry

- 1972 Bill Peters

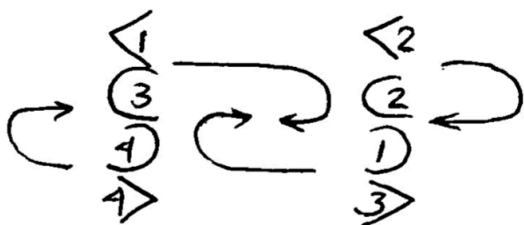
- 1975 Al Brundage, Earl Johnston, and Deuce Williams

- 1982 Bill Davis

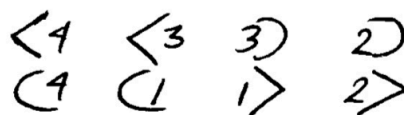
July 1971
DON BECHTOLD

FERRIS WHEEL

From parallel two faced lines, the couples facing out wheel around to face back in as in a wheel and deal. (If they are on the left end, they wheel to their right. If on right, they wheel left.) The couples facing in step ahead as if to form a two faced line with the other couple coming at them, and then wheel and deal to face them, leaving the square in a double pass thru formation. (The two faced line in the center is useful for teaching, but should not actually be formed during dancing.)



before



after

Caption

Some calls were written up and sent into note services and we know the date and author

Some calls were just used and spread by word of mouth and we may not know the date and author

Groups established whose focus was new calls

Why create new calls?

1. To get your name in print
2. Because it was fun
3. To get into or out of a new formation (e.g., diamonds, hourglass, galaxy, etc.)
4. To give us a new motion or feel
5. To have new "workshop" material; floor equalizer
6. Outlet for creative juices
7. Dancers are in a learning mode, and they want to learn more
8. Caller or dancer bored with the same old same old
9. Lee Kopman needed material for his challenge groups

Why not just use directional calling?

Who wrote some of our calls?

Lee Kopman (299 calls):

- Scoot Back (1969)
- Roll (1971)
- Cut The Diamond (1973)
- Coordinate (1974)
- Chase Right (1975)
- Recycle (1975)

Don Beck (35 calls):

- Ferris Wheel (1974)
- Ping Pong Circulate (1975)
- Chain Down the Line (1981)

Gus Greene (100 calls)

- Zoom (1972)

Unanswered questions:

When does an idea deserve to be a call?

Are there existing, unused calls that are good and fun to dance?

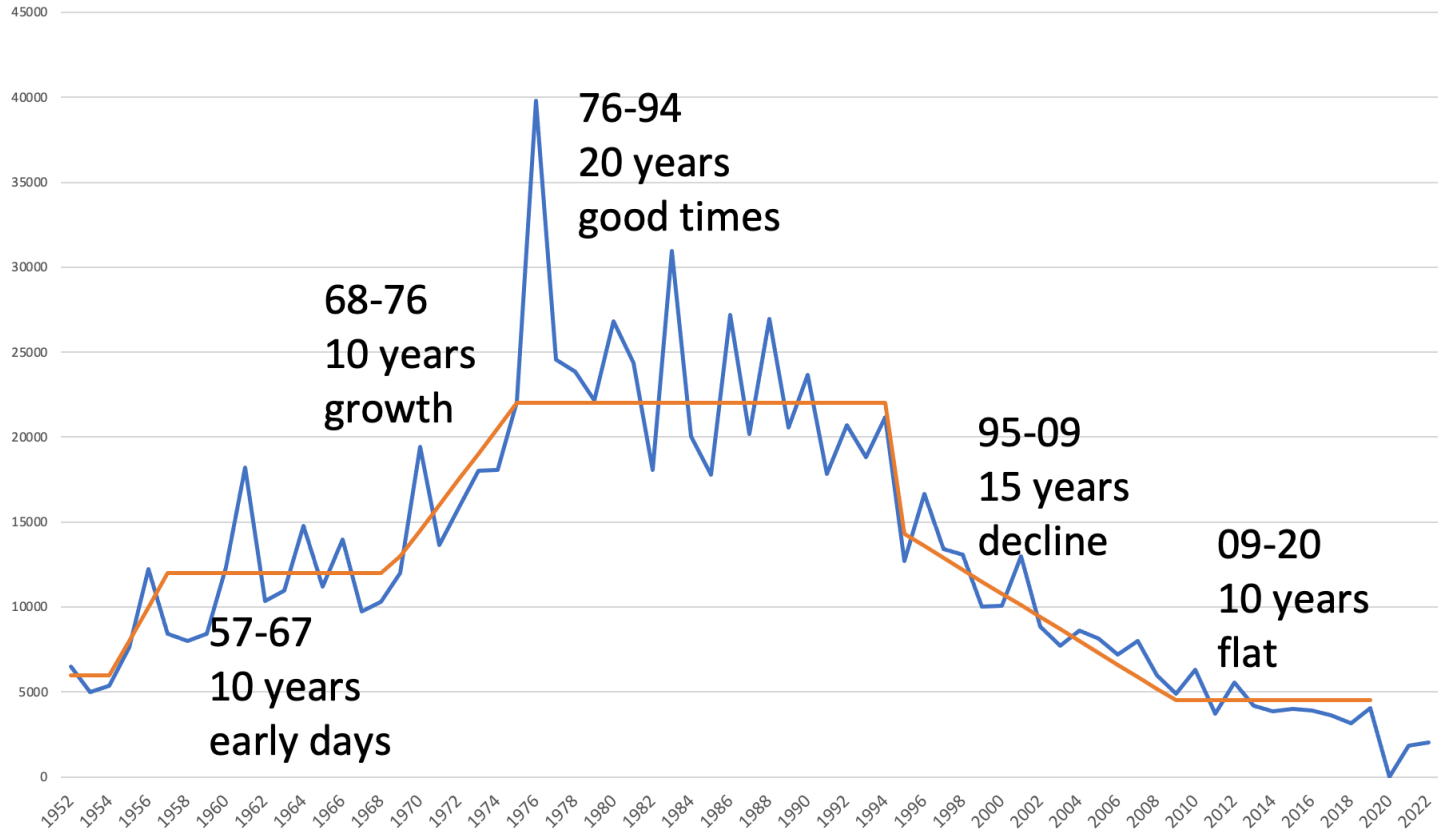
How do I create a new call?

Why don't we see any new calls today?

How do we know that a dance action doesn't have 2 or more names?

If it can be called directionally, does it need a name?

We hope this talk gave you something to think about and engenders further discussion.



Caption

<http://fortytwo.ws/~cbaker/Call%20Evolution%20by%20Clark%20Baker.pdf>