



Rick's Newsletter

June 6, 2026

My newsletter is back after several years!!!

Rick's Clubs Keep on Dancing!!! Weds - Mainstream & Thurs - Plus

Thanks to all the guest callers who made it possible for Tucson Twirlers and Fun Bunch - Plus to keep dancing while I was on tour. It is nice that we can dance all year long now.

It was a great opportunity for the clubs to dance to the fun, talented calling of Tom Crisp, Don Haney, David Hines, Dean Singleton and Tim Exline. I want to also thank the loyal dancers who have been supporting the clubs while I was gone.

Our membership has grown since I got things going again last fall.

I am currently still on the road. It has been a wonderful trip, getting back to what I love doing: traveling, calling and visiting. Thanks to all the callers, clubs and dancers who went out of their way to make my traveling possible again. I am overwhelmed by the responses I got just by reaching out. I went from having very few out-of-town dances, to booking several dozen, from the Eastern U.S.A. to the Rocky Mountains and west to California. I have become busy again and I am loving it. Getting back to what I have done in my long career as a full-time Arizona and traveling caller has been the best therapy for me. I continue to book more dances for 2026, 2027 and 2028. Thanks to the wonderful dance community both home and all around. I am back to being busy.

rickgittelman.com

This week I am in Baltimore and Washington, DC. I will return to Philly to attend my fiftieth High School reunion and next week I am calling in the Pittsburgh area. I am also recording a singing call as I have become a member of GOLD RUSH - Square Dance music.

I return June 21st. I call that very night at Saddlebrook Squares before resuming my home schedule. I look forward to getting home to call for my home-town friends.

Summer Plans

I will be in Tucson lots this summer, but I also look forward to calling several times all over California - see my California schedule for details. I have spent a lot of time over the years calling and making friends in the Golden State and I look forward to it again this summer,

It will be great to see all my friends over there again and call for some wonderful dancers... *Don't worry! I will be calling plenty of Arizona dances too, and when I am on tour, my clubs already have guest callers scheduled so they will remain dancing all summer.*

Tucson Twirlers -Wednesdays

5:30 MS Workshop 6:30-8:15 MS Dance

Mainstream - including workshop tips and Mainstream dancing with round dance teaching in between tips with Ray Burns - club cuer. Tim Exline from Maricopa is our guest caller June 10th and 17th. Rick returns on the 23rd. On July 8th and 15th, we will be sponsoring Intro to Square Dancing Nights. See flier, which is also on both SARDASA AND MY WEBSITES....

The Fun Bunch-Plus Club Thursdays

**6:30- 8:30 Plus Workshop tips PLUS
DANCING**

June 11 David Hinds- June 18 Dean Singleton

Using Websites continued

Starting June 25 6-8:30, RICK returns

We will be teaching plus including the new plus calls. If you are interested in learning plus, want to review plus, learn the new plus calls then the Fun Bunch is the place for you. We will have teaching tips, workshop tips and dancing tips.

RICK A SHAYS – ADVANCED

Advanced dance and workshop will resume this summer. This past spring we had some Wednesdays and Thursdays, we will be working on scheduling dances soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SATURDAY SPECIAL- JUNE 27th

HAWAIIAN BEACH BASH

ADVANCED 2-4 MS/ (announced) Plus- 4-6

Wear your beach duds!!!!!!

Sponsored by Tucson Twirlers,

Fun Bunch and RICK-A-SHAYS

**WE WILL BE HAVING 4th SAT Specials every month
(Except no Dec Dance - Oct 31- 5th Saturday)**

SEE all MY FLYERS ON WEBSITE

USING WEBSITES

It is so easy to find dancing information in just a click or two. Please check out these local websites.

To navigate rickgittelman.com

You can click on my on the road schedule, go to specific categories like Eastern USA- California and see where, when and what level I am calling.

For local schedules go to Arizona Home Club and Guest Calling or Workshops- Classes. I even added guest callers who will be filling in for me.

There is a section for all my Saturday Specials and you can click directly to flyers from there.

To see all flyers, including my home club flyers and other specials, just click on the flyer section and scroll. I just added new flyers –

DOWNLOADABLE. There is also a flyer for the Intro to Square Dance nights you can pass along to potential new dancers, plus dancing and intro etc. Please check them out.

I recently updated my profile page, you can read my history, try to stay awake please!!!!
See me in action features calling videos.

Special thanks to my friend Becky who designed and has helped me maintain my website for the past couple decades and to Tim Exline who has helped me with updates, flyers and editing.

For dance INFORMATION in Southern Arizona regarding clubs, classes, workshops, special dances, flyers etc. Go to SARDASA.ORG

SOUTHERN ARIZONA CALLERS/CUERS ASSOCIATION <http://SACCA.DANCE/>

Caller contact info, sign up for our Festival. Flyers, dance information etc.

**SPECIAL OUT-OF-TOWN CALLER
ERIC HENERLAU JOINS TOM CRISP
FRIDAY- JUNE 19th 6:30-8:30 MS/PLUS**

SONORAN STABLES

**CRUISE WITH RICK AND LOTS
OF OTHER CALLERS APR. 20-27,
2027**

**CHECK OUT ON MY WEBSITE
FOR DETAILS**

New Plus-Mainstream Program

As most of you know by now CALLERLAB has approved of new Mainstream and Plus Programs - Lists which will take effect this September.

There has been much debate among callers and dancers but it has been voted approved and
New Plus-Mainstream Program (cont'd)

released by the CALLERLAB. The membership voted in favor of these changes

Mainstream has been modified to a shorter list, plus has been modified to a longer list to include eight calls from the Advanced Program.

New dancers will be able to learn the new Mainstream program in about 30 hours - plus in about 50. The goal is to get the dancers into clubs in a shorter period, Mainstream being the entry level.

It will encourage dancers to get comfortable with Mainstream, moving into the Plus program is an option but only if they desire to move to Plus.

In April I conducted a teaching session to help callers who are not familiar with the new plus calls, this included teaching techniques, usage of the calls, starting and ending formations, dance flow, I emphasized that it is important to use correct definitions.

My goal is to help our local callers so they can teach and present these newer calls to the dancers properly.

All the area callers have agreed to teach the new plus call program so that when it officially comes into effect Sept. 1st dancers will be properly prepared. New dance classes will now teach new Mainstream, smaller list of the old Mainstream, Single Circle has been added to the list.

As SACCA president I am striving towards all of us, callers and dancers, trying to be on the same page and communicate with each other especially during this crucial transitional time. This is so important for the betterment of our dance community.

I know in the Sacramento area, which I am directly connected with, all the callers and clubs are working together. They have a plan and they even have a newsletter addressing the new calls. I am a contributor on the newsletter and all the SACCA Callers get a copy.

I have a plan within my clubs, Tucson Twirlers-MS and Fun Bunch-Plus, to make sure the teaching process moves forward properly.

At this point my Tucson Twirlers can dance existing MS. New dancers classes will be taught new Mainstream.

Fun Bunch, Thursdays, teaching and workshopping the new plus calls and we will invite brand new plus dancers to join us the end of June. New Plus will be taught, workshopped and danced. Don, Tom and Richard also have Plus classes and or workshops. Go to the SARDASA website for all the info or contact the callers or clubs directly.

My goal is for all of us to work together, support each other as one dance community, callers, clubs and dancers. This will take communication and cooperation.

NEW DANCER CLASSES

Our biggest priority is to get new dancers into the classes when they start. I know Richard Lane has an ongoing class, he is also offering some Intro dance sessions soon and has plans for future classes. Tom is starting a brand-new class at the end of June. Tucson Twirlers will be holding intro sessions and potentially start new classes in mid July.

Again, check out the websites, talk to the callers. We all can help recruit new dancers by letting the public know, your friends, relatives, people where you shop, your doctor's offices, grocery stores, anywhere you go, spread the word. Get yourself familiar with when new classes are starting, not just when your club is starting classes. Let's work together- We can do it TUCSON....

DON'T FORGET TO CELEBRATE
4th of July with Tom and Rick at Sonoran
Stables 2-3 Adv 3-5 MS/Plus-Barbecue

A note from the editor Rick

This is my first newsletter since maybe 2022. My goal is to share ideas, let you know about dances, and inform you about my events but also share other events that are going on.

Although I express some of my own editorial comments, I welcome your ideas and feedback also.

Feel free to write me back directly. I welcome information you would like to share also.

In the past I published this newsletter monthly or sometimes bi-monthly. My intent is to help get information to the dance community.

Thanks to my wonderful friends Alice Allen and Tim and Steph Exline for helping edit this newsletter.....

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Rick Gittelman



Happy Dancing