



*Dan Schweitzer*

There are two rather different ways to enjoy square dancing.

Long time dancers are very familiar with one of them, call it the “Everything-Clicking” style.

In this style, the caller can rev up the pace, get the dancers in weird formations, and toss in tricky variations. No matter. Come Allemande Left, there’s your corner, and for the Promenade Home, the couples are in order. Wow, is that fun. Oh so satisfying. Grins all around.

There is also the “Crash-Oops” style. This style is most common in a square with a few new dancers, and maybe a rusty couple. Come Allemande Left, finding anyone of the opposite sex is, actually, rather nice. It may be something of a surprise if the square actually gets to the Promenade Home. There are a lot of extra hand signals and tugs involved. Mostly, its Repair Your Square and wait (giggling) for the caller to get back to a Square Formation. Don’t ask me to explain why, but wow is that fun. Oh so satisfying. Laughs, loud laughs, all around.

Counter-intuitive, I know.

Up here in TT land, we have a steady supply of new dancers, and,

fortunately a good supply of experienced dancers that appreciate the Crash-Oops style.

That doesn’t mean you won’t find an Everything-Clicking square. You will, but it is better if you enjoy both styles.

It stands to reason that appreciating the Crash-Oops style helps to get new square dancers involved. Actually, most of us enjoy a Crash-Oops tip, just because we get to laugh at ourselves.

But TT’ers aren’t alone.

Several years ago, as new dancers, some of our class went to the State Festival. We huddled together in our own squares. We were definitely Crash-Oops surrounded by Everything-Clicking.

Along came a couple from Plus.com, Al & Mae. They joined one of our squares and stuck with us. They laughed with us. Got us through the calls we were missing, and made us feel really welcome. We’ve signed up for every state festival since. And, by the way, at each one, we’ve seen Al & Mae dancing with our latest graduates.

So, summer assignment: Let’s all seek out a few Crash-Oops squares. Make them feel welcome. Have fun. If it turns into an Everything Clicking square, well, them’s the breaks.