



Dan Schweitzer

Once again, this January the Timberline Toppers start a new class of square dancers.

Each new student wonders, “What the heck am I in for here?”

The answer varies, but statistically (based on my usual painstaking research):

- 100% will have a routine inability to distinguish left from right.
- 99.9% will make new friends.
- 98.0% will be surprised to find themselves laughing so much. (A very stoic 1.2% can always hold it down to a smile, and 0.8% aren’t surprised, because they always laugh.)
- 93.4% will discover that their cranial card-catalog of calls occasionally comes up blank – leading to the next item.
- 89.8% will master the “deer-in-the-headlights” look well before mastering Zoom.
- 71.8% will be certain that the instructor calls too fast. Then these 71.8% will attend their first real dance.
- 63.9% will make at least one life-long friendship.
- The 32.6% of students with great visual skills will actually be able to watch their brains turning to mush.
- After graduation, 27.2% will miss a few dances, get rusty, and convince themselves that they aren’t good enough for real dances. 45.7% of these will repeat the class next year.
- 23.7% will, in a year or two, go on to Plus lessons.
- 18.7% will eventually find that they plan trips around (and for) square dance events. Of these, 44.2% will have square dancing friends in at least 5 states (possibly, believe it or not, even Texas).
- 13.4% will eventually take lessons in round dancing.
- 6.9% will own a petticoat within a year. Zero percent of these will be male.
- For 1.1%, despite practice and effort, the cranial card catalog of calls consistently clears completely. Sadly, square dancing is not for them.
- 0.7% will discover that they have a calling for calling.
- 0.002% will go beyond Mainstream and Plus to A1, A2, C1 and C2. At C2, 9.6% will actually continue to smile when dancing.
- Less than 0.0% will regret taking the lessons.

As always, smile, keep dancing, and follow us on the web at: timberlinetoppers.org