

# Making Square Dancing the Most Fun for the Whole Team

Be the Square Dance Culture You Enjoy

*by Ken Sale (with help from others<sup>1</sup>) for Oaktown 8s*

- **Be a team player!** Square dancing is a team endeavor. You can make a big contribution to the enjoyment of the whole team.
- **Focus on the dancing!** Once a tip has started help every square by refraining from talking; you'll help make sure everybody can pay attention and hear the caller. Save the chit-chat for between tips.
- **Move to the beat!** You'll help keep the square synchronized and successful. You can help make what we do dancing, not just arhythmic ambling about.
- **Be gentle!**<sup>2</sup> The hand contact is important and helps folks know the formation. The Grip of Death is unpleasant (at best) and potentially injurious.
- **Be ready!** When the music starts square right up; you'll help ensure more dancing and less standing.
- **Be friendly** (but not too much). some folks like hugs, some folks not so much; be sensitive and not intrusive (or creepy).
- **Be Dancing!** When a square breaks down focus on getting home or making normal lines; your team will be able to spend more time dancing and less time standing.
- **Be fully functional!** Don't dance impaired; show folks you're fully there for the team.
- **Listen** to the caller. you'll be helping ensure the success of your square.
- **If you help, do it helpfully!** If you feel a need to direct a dancer be sure that you are correct, and be gentle in your assistance. A proffered hand or a quiet word are better than a push, or a tug, or a bark.

<sup>1</sup> John Spitzer and the rest of the Oaktown 8s board made significant contributions.

<sup>2</sup> Dancers have been injured and have given up dancing due to too-rough team mates.