

### ***Why Do I Keep Doing It?***

Back in 1995, the Northern New Jersey Round Dance Leaders' Council asked me to write an article on why I became a round dance cuer. (Hoping to attract others to do the same.) Most of what follows is from that article. Why did I become a cuer and Round Dance teacher? That's easy. Back in 1978 the Rutgers Promenaders wanted to learn some round dances, Betsy had calling equipment, and no one else in the club knew how to round dance. Voila, Instant cuer!

Rather than talk about why I started, I would like to talk about why I continue. Is it a lot of work? Yes. Do I make a lot of money? No. Do I make some extra money? Yes. Do I enjoy doing it? Most of the time. Is it rewarding? Yes! Does it feed my ego? Yes.

If you look at the above paragraph, you will see that most of the responses are yes. The one negative response only refers to the lots of money question. Bottom line? I'm having a great time. I love music of all types, I love performing, and I love teaching. Cueing offers me a chance to experience all of these (and get paid to do it). I often receive favorable comments on my music selections. In all honesty, I choose records because I love working with them. People ask me how I can cue with such enthusiasm (and animation) when there might only be 3 or 4 couples on the floor. Two reasons. The first is that even if there is only one couple, they have paid for and deserve my best performance. The second is that I am performing for myself. I am having a blast. It's kind of like singing and dancing (or playing air guitar) to the radio when you are all alone. I choose music that gets me pumped up, and then give it my best shot. I am doing something that is giving me enjoyment. If the response from the floor (large or small crowd) is favorable, then the enjoyment becomes satisfaction. Compliments are icing on the cake.

Are there any down sides to cueing? Of course. Sometimes I will really like a dance, but most of the responses are "Use that record for a coaster". Or sometimes I'll spend a whole night teaching a figure, and the next week it's as if I only dreamed that I taught that figure. Occasionally, I'll have a bad night and foul up every other dance. I'm constantly buying new records (anybody want to buy several hundred slightly used records?). But the up side far outweighs the down side

To sum up why I keep cueing, I will relate what another cuer told me several years ago. This person said that they never thought of being a cuer until they saw how much fun I appeared to be having.

### ***Why Should You Consider Becoming a Caller or Cuer?***

First, all of the above. Second, you could be asset to the activity. From a calling standpoint, several people have attended our caller schools simply to be able to fill in at lessons when the regular teacher had a conflict. Others have attended with the main purpose of being able to do beginner or party dances and present square dancing in a positive light. Callers and cuers tend to be ambassadors for their activities and actively recruit new dancers. (More dancers mean more income.) Even if you do not actively pursue the profession, by giving it a try, you appreciate just what how much work is involved. Third, and finally, who knows, you might actually be really good at it.

Respectfully submitted,  
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