

## A Rose By Any Other Name Is Still...What Was Your Name?

We've all got strong points and weak points. There is no doubt about that. Giant "E-go" aside, there are lots of things I like about myself. There are also quite a few things I'd like to change. When it comes to square dancing, one issue sticks out above all the rest for me...I cannot remember names.

I'm not talking about people I meet just in passing. I can NOT remember names to save my life. How bad is it? I have graduated students after 25 weeks of teaching class and STILL could not tell you their names. I am thoroughly ashamed of myself admitting this, but it is true. If there were just one thing I could change about myself, it would be to correct this problem.

Yes, I understand that the general public might have lots more things they'd like to change about me. My Mother has lots of other things she'd like to change about me. I've even got an ex-girlfriend who wanted to change more about me than she wanted to keep! (Hence the term EX-girlfriend.) Yes, I wouldn't mind losing an extra couple hundred pounds...but only after I learn how to remember names!

What's the big deal? Isn't that why they make badges? A badge is a nice tool, but I've always looked at knowing a person's name (and the way they pronounce it) is a sign of respect. When I don't remember someone's name I feel that I have not given them the respect they deserve. I'm in an activity of extraordinarily good and decent people and I'd like to show the proper respect. This is one more reason that I am uncomfortable without my "Security Blanket".

Fortunately (if you can call it fortunate) my memory issues are not limited to names. No, it's not a good thing that I've got a bad memory, but the fact that it's not just a mental block with names gives me some sort of relief. It's not that I'm RUDE...I'm just SLOW!

I've been calling square dances since 1988, and if I tried to right now, I could not write down 10 singing call figures that I have committed to memory. (Yes, I've tried.) I can't recall the basic "Chicken-Plucker" pattern that we are all taught the first day of our first callers school unless I stop and think about it. Yes, I can remember it as I am writing this now, but if you walked up to me at a dance and asked me to tell you the "Chicken-Plucker" pattern, I would have to hesitate before I answered you. I can't give you a memorized "Get In" or "Get Out" either. My brain is a little broken.

Is there an answer to these memory issues? Well, I can guarantee you the answer is NOT Kevin Trudeau's "Mega-Memory" program. Now THAT was a waste of fifty bucks! So far the best luck I've had was at a callers school I did recently. I went around to all the students and asked permission to take their picture on my phone. I quizzed myself and got a few right by the end!

A good memory is a gift. I've seen callers able to name every dancer on the floor. I envy those callers. I'd tell you who they were but I just can't remember their names...