

Camp Set

notes by Pat Murphy

This set dance was composed by John Chambers, who lives in the Camp area of West Kerry. John is originally from County Monaghan but he has lived in Kerry and taught dancing there for many years.

Figure 1: Reel

192 bars

- a** All couples lead around anticlockwise, gents right arm over the lady's shoulder, right hand in right and left hand in left, turning clockwise on the spot without turning the lady during the last two bars. **8 bars**
- b** All couples lead back clockwise and the gent brings his left hand over the lady's head as she turns clockwise to take waltz hold. **8 bars**
- c** All couples house around the set in waltz hold. **8 bars**
- d** Top ladies take right arm in right in the centre to dance a full turn around each other, then take left arm in left with the opposite gent and turn anticlockwise around him to finish in a group of three, arms around the waist, with the side couple left of their own original positions. **8 bars**
- e** The groups of three swing in a little Christmas and finish facing in with the gent in the centre and the visiting (top) lady on his left. During the swing, top gents take right arm in right in the centre, turn one and a half times around each other, then reverse into opposite positions. **8 bars**
- f** Releasing all hands, all advance and retire twice, top ladies moving to retire with their own partners in opposite positions the second time. **8 bars**
- g** All couples dance in place in waltz hold, turning clockwise twice. **8 bars**
- h** All couples house around the set. **8 bars**
- i** Top ladies take right arm in right in the centre to dance a full turn around each other, then take left arm in left with the opposite gent and turn anticlockwise around him to finish in a group of three, arms around the waist, with the side couple left of where they started and right of their own original positions. **8 bars**
- j** The groups of three swing in a little Christmas and finish facing in with the gent in the centre and the visiting (top) lady on his left. During the swing, top gents take right arm in right in the centre, turn one and a half times around each other, then reverse into their own original positions. **8 bars**

- k** Releasing all hands, all advance and retire twice, top ladies moving to retire with their own partners in place the second time. **8 bars**
- l** All couples dance in place in waltz hold, turning clockwise twice. **8 bars**
- m** All couples house around the set. **8 bars**
- n** Repeat **d** to **m** with side couples leading. **80 bars**

Figure 2: Reel

192 bars

- a** Holding hands in a circle, all advance and retire twice in a circle. **8 bars**
- b** All couples dance at home, turning clockwise twice. **8 bars**
- c** Top ladies chain with right hands in the centre, turn left hand in left around the opposite gent, then chain back with right hands, take their own partner's left hand in left and turn anticlockwise around him to finish facing in, with the gent's right arm over the lady's shoulder holding both hands. **8 bars**
- d** Top couples advance and retire with the gent's right arm over the lady's shoulder holding both hands (4 bars), then advance again and ladies change places, giving their right hand to the opposite gent's left as they cross to take waltz hold (4 bars). **8 bars**

- e** Top couples house with their new partners. **8 bars**
- f** Top couples dance **c** to **e** again, ladies crossing back home to house with their own partners. **24 bars**
- g** Side couples dance **c** to **f**. **48 bars**
- h** All advance and retire in a circle (4 bars), then advance again (2 bars) and ladies move one place to the right, taking waltz hold with the next gent (2 bars). **8 bars**
- i** All dance at home with their new partners, turning clockwise twice. **8 bars**
- j** Repeat **h** and **i** three times, so that all are dancing at home with their own partners again. **48 bars**
- k** All couples house around the set to finish the figure. **8 bars**

Figure 3: Polka

192 bars

- a** Quarter House: In waltz hold, all couples dance one step to the centre and back (2 bars) then dance one position to the right turning clockwise (2 bars). They now repeat the movements three times as they dance around the set to home (12 bars). **16 bars**
- b** All couples house around the set. **8 bars**
- c** The four ladies chain with right hands in a star in the centre and turn with left hand in left around the opposite gent (4 bars). They then take right hand in right with the gent now on their left (on the right of the lady's original position) and turn anticlockwise under his right hand to face him. All ladies have now moved one position to the right. **8 bars**
- d** All swing their new partners. **8 bars**
- e** All repeat **a** to **d** until ladies have moved around the set and gents are swinging their own partners again. **120 bars**
- f** Quarter House: In waltz hold, all couples dance one step to the centre and back (2 bars) then dance one position to the right turning clockwise (2 bars). They now repeat the movements three times as they dance around the set to home (12 bars). **16 bars**
- g** All couples house around the set. **8 bars**

Figure 4: Hornpipe

112 bars

- a** In waltz hold, all couples dance one step to the centre and back (2 bars) then dance one position to the right turning clockwise (2 bars). They now repeat the movements three times as they dance around the set to home (12 bars). **16 bars**
- b** All couples house around the set. **8 bars**
- c** Still in waltz hold facing their partners, top couples turn to the side couple on their left while side couples turn to the top couple on their right. Starting with a hop, all dance "sevens" towards the other couple and back (4 bars), then dance "threes" in and back (2 bars) and double anticlockwise to the other couples position to face them again from the other side (2 bars). Tops are now in side positions and sides are in top positions, all facing back towards their own places. **8 bars**
- d** All repeat **c** from the other side, finishing back in their own places. **8 bars**
- e** All dance **a** and **b**, the body and house, again. **24 bars**
- f** Still in waltz hold, top couples now face towards the side couples on their right while side couples face left. All repeat **c** and **d** with this couple. **16 bars**
- g** All dance **a** and **b**, the body and house, again to finish the figure. **24 bars**



Figure 1d—Top ladies take right arms for a full turn around each other in the centre, then take left arms around their opposite gents, finishing in a group of three with the side couples left of their original positions. Photos by Bill Lynch.



Figure 1e—While the two groups swing in a Christmas, top gents dance around each other and finish in the opposite places. Figure 1f—All advance and retire twice, top ladies finishing back with their gents.

