

# The Beaver Dance

**Region:** Thunder Bay, Ontario This dance represents the sound of the beaver as it hits its tail in warning to the other beavers. The sound is made by the inactive dancers. This is one of the dances danced by the voyageurs representing the animals they hunted.

**Basic Steps:** walk, chassee, pivot swing.

**Formation:** a longways set of 4 – 6 couples. (The recording used is arranged for 4 cpls.)

<b>Measures:</b>	<b>Counts:</b>	<b>Pattern:</b>
		<b>Part 1:</b>
1 - 2	1 - 8	Couple 1 turn partner once around by the R hand.
3 - 4	9 - 16	Couple 1 turn partner once around by the L hand.
5 - 6	17 - 24	Couple 1 swings in social dance position. End with lead hands toward the bottom of the set.
7 - 8	25 - 32	Couple 1, still in social dance position, chassee down the centre of the set.
9 - 10	33 - 40	Couple 1 releases hand hold and continuing with 8 more chassee steps, they cast up the outside of the set, the Man with his back to the W's line and the Lady with her back to the M's line. They arrive back at the top of the set and end in each other's place.
11 - 12	41 - 48	All couples now swing.
13 - 16	49 - 64	With 16 chassee steps all couples, still in social dance position and following couple 1, cast off (as a couple) to the M's side of the dance. They circle once around and back up to place. Couple 1 will move away from the other couples to catch up to the last couple. As dancers arrive back in the set they will be in the order of 2, 3, 4, 1.
17 - 64		Repeat measures 1 - 16, three more times, except that on the fifth time the dancers will end in a single circle facing their partner. Men will face CCW and Women will face CW.

Beaver Dance – cont'd

1 – 4	1 – 8	<b>Part 2:</b>
		Dancers dance a Grand Chain once around (usually using a two-step). When partners meet ...
5 – 8	9 – 16	... they will take social dance position and swing to the end of the music.

Presented by Dale Hyde

Mainwoods Dance Camp  
Fryeburg, Maine, U.S.A. August 2003

Ontario Folk Dance Camp  
Waterloo, Ontario May 2005

SIFD Summer School  
University of Wales, Swansea July 2015