



TRAILBLAZER



SERVING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ADVANCED/CHALLENGE SQUARE DANCE COMMUNITY

Dec/Jan, 2006/7

Volume XXV Number 6

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY

John & Carolyn Melstrom



JOHN & CAROLYN MELSTROM

Fall is nearly over and the winter season is nearly upon us. Fortunately, our weather somehow stays summer-like, warm and sunny. Our only notice of the passing seasons seems to come from hearing the harsh weather reports from the rest of the country. Our last two dances heated up just like our weather. In October Bronc Wise called to our largest turnout of the year. He made it fun, and his workshop material

opened the eyes of many of the visitors who attended the dance. Their enthusiasm and expressed desire to come back to more Trailblazer dances shows that dancing can be fun while at the same time challenging. In November, we were pleased to see the return of Anne Uebelacker. I have been told that everyone enjoyed her calling. I had been on a vacation back East and hoped to return for her Sunday C1/C2 dance. A case of acute bronchitis and the gout kept me from attending. I did manage to drop in at the very end of the dance. Anne looked at me warily, thinking there must be some sort of jinx. On a previous visit by Anne, I showed up with a cane and back brace after fracturing several vertebrae. I'll try to stay healthy for your next visit, Anne!

A couple of important reminders need to be made before I go any further. The yearly Trailblazer dues are now due. This was not mentioned in the last newsletter or last month, and we are on a short timetable. We need an up-to-date roster of current members in order to submit our insurance fees and receive certification for the halls in which we dance. Hopefully, all mem-
(Continued on page 3)

IT IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME AGAIN

NEW amount \$12.00

PLEASE CONTACT ROBERT OR VICKIE MORRIS AT A CLUB DANCE OR BY EMAIL:

Robert.Morris@uboc.com

OR

robert.e.morris@juno.com

OR

1527 Channelwood Drive
Whittier, CA 90601

Coming Trailblazer Dances

Friday C-3A—Saturday A-2
Sunday—1st Session C-1, 2nd Session C-2
See the last Page for Locations

2006/2007

Dec 1, 2, 3	Vic Ceder
Jan 5, 6, 7	Dave Wilson
Feb 2, 3, 4	Bill Haynes
Mar 4, 5, 6	Sandra Bryant
Apr 6, 7, 8	Vic Ceder
May 4, 5, 6	Mike Jacobs
June 1, 2, 3	TBD

SPECIAL EVENTS!!

Jan 18-20, 2007	<p>SOUTHERN ARIZONA DANCE FESTIVAL Tucson, AZ Email: jimgeny@aol.com</p>
Feb 23-25, 2007	<p>LAS VEGAS WINTER CLASSIC Las Vegas, Nevada Featuring: Lee Kopman, Steve Kopman C1 with * tips Email: s.kopman@juno.com</p>
March 16-18, 2007	<p>BAKERSFIELD FIESTA Bakersfield, CA Featuring: Bob Baier, Michael Kellogg, Larry Letson, Mike Sikorsky, Bronc Wise MS thru Challenge E-Mail: ELGlines@aol.com</p>



For more EVENTS check out our new website
Http: //www.trailblazers-socal.org



2006 - 2007
TRAILBLAZER BOARD MEMBERS



President	John & Carolyn Melstrom
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A Square D Rep	Jeff Overbey
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DANCE, CLASS & WORKSHOP LISTINGS

No charge for listings.
Regular dances will not be listed under special events. Call schedules will not be included in regular dance listings. However, if a schedule of callers is sent, we will include a listing on our website.

ADVERTISING

Full Page (8 x 10) = \$30 Half Page (8 x 5) = \$20
Qtr. Page (3.75 x 5) = \$10 Bus. Card (3 x 2) = \$ 6.50
Advertising must be camera ready copy, black ink on white paper. Full page originals cannot be reduced to a half-page.

REMITTANCE

Make all checks for advertising or listings payable to **TRAILBLAZER**. Payment must accompany all orders for advertisements and listings.

(Continued from page 1) **[President's Message]**
 bers will have received an email reminder from Karl Springer as well as read this article before our December dance. At our most recent board meeting, we voted to lower our yearly dues to \$12 per person, a more manageable fee, and one which does not need the extra money for printing and mailing of newsletters. So, please bring your checks (or cash) to our next dance.

Another Board decision that affects everyone will be a door fee increase effective with the January dance in 2007. The Trailblazers have kept door fees low, but we are facing increasing hall rental and caller fees. With rising fees for caller transportation, other clubs charging higher door fees, and the necessity to dip into our reserves to meet contractual obligations, it was decided that a fee increase was necessary. The final fee structure is still in question, but it will take place on January 1, 2007. Everyone will be notified as soon as a final decision is reached.

The Board also addressed the issue of housing callers. The task of housing callers has been handled by only a few Trailblazer members, most notably John and Barbara Marshall and Robert and Vickie Morris. Although we have announced a need for other members to help out, we have not had any volunteers. The Board passed a motion that states that any club member housing a caller would get into the dances for half price. Any Board member housing a caller would get in free. Hopefully, this incentive will encourage some members to step forward. If you are willing to house a caller, please contact John Marshall.

In my ramblings of the past few newsletters, I've neglected to mention our newest Trailblazer members Sam Mehlman, Gina Phearson, David Ameeti, and Marvin Fishman. They bring a fresh enthusiasm to our dance floor and promote a positive Trailblazer image. We are fortunate to have them join the Trailblazer team. We have seen an influx of new dancers at the Saturday A2 dances, especially from the Valley area and the San Diego area.. The dancers have commented on how friendly the Trailblazers have been, and they have marveled that dances can be so challenging yet fun. Upon attending our dances, they

have commented that the Trailblazers were not intimidating as they had originally believed. We are seeing them return each month and grow in their dance ability.

Unfortunately, we are also losing some club members. Mel and Carol Levrant have moved back to Ohio. (Continued on page 6)

NEW TRAILBLAZER MEMBERS





David Ameeti




Gina Phearson



Sam Mehlman

Marvin Fishman



DANCE REVIEW

by Craig Shucker

Bronc Wise was the featured caller for the October Trailblazers weekend. At the Friday C-3A dance session, Bronc presented a fairly basic dance. Some of the more interesting calls included: (1) from a 1/4 tag -- Lock The Hinge The Pulley; (2) from outfacing lines -- Initially Stretch, Wheel The Sea; (3) from a formation formed from magic columns and having the lead ends Quarter In -- Initially Concentric, Motivate; (4) from parallel 3-and-1 lines with infacing ends and with centers having a left handhold -- Own The Centers, Drift Apart by Plan Ahead; (5) from a formation formed from a trade by and having the ends Quarter Left -- Own The Centers, Squeeze by Snap The Lock; (6) from a formation formed from a double pass thru and having everyone Squeeze -- Split Phantom Column Track 2; (7) from parallel right-hand two-faced lines -- Split Phantom Line Sets In Motion.



Bronc Wise

At the Saturday A-2 workshop session, Bronc provided a good exercise in positioning: (1) from various T-bone boxes, facing couples, back-to-back couples, a tidal wave, a tidal two-faced line, twin diamonds, or point-to-point diamonds -- Split Counter Rotate; (2) from a T-bone box with two diagonally opposite leaders and two diagonally opposite trailers -- Trail Off, Peel The Top, or Peel and Trail; (3) from infacing lines -- Spin The Windmill Forward;

(4) from a formation formed from a 3/4 tag and having the centers Lockit -- Spin The Windmill Right; (5) from infacing lines -- Any Hand 1/4 Thru, Any Hand 3/4 Thru, or Any Hand Remake; (6) from parallel columns with the ends having the opposite handhold from the centers -- Any Hand Remake.

At the A-2 dance session, Bronc used some of the calls from the workshop session, but also include a few more interesting calls: (1) from a left-hand 1/4 tag -- Chain Reaction; (2) from parallel two-faced lines -- Motivate But Turn The Star 1/4; (3) from outfacing lines -- Linear Cycle; (4) from a left-hand thar -- All 8 Chain Down The Line; (5) from a static square -- All 8 Do The Centers Part Of Spin The Windmill; (6) from a formation formed from parallel left-hand waves with boys as trailers and having the ends Right Roll To A Wave -- Boys In Your Distorted Wave Left Swing Thru; (7) from same-hand twin dia-

monds with boys as outfacing points and as ends of the center wave -- All In Your Same-Sex Distorted Diamonds Circulate.

The Sunday C-1 session was primarily a dance session. Some of the more interesting calls included: (1) from a same-hand diamond -- Step & Fold; (2) from a left-hand ocean wave -- Finish Chain Down The Line; (3) from parallel ocean waves -- Omit The First Part, Relay The Top; (4) from parallel two-faced lines -- Start With A Partner Trade, Relay The Top; (5) from a completed double pass thru -- Vertical 3/4 Tag; (6) from a formation formed from parallel ocean waves and having the infacing ends and the adjacent centers Hinge -- Phantom Relay The Top; (7) from a formation formed from inverted lines with outfacing ends and having the right-hand ends and the adjacent centers Hinge -- Phantom Fan The Top.

The Sunday C-2 session was also primarily a dance session. Some of the more challenging calls included: (1) from a 1/4 tag -- Scoot & Plenty, Interrupt Before The Split Circulates With A 1/2 Crazy Single Cross Trade & Wheel; (2) from facing twin diamonds -- Exchange The Diamonds; (3) from magic columns -- Once Removed Split Trade Circulate; (4) from magic columns -- Split Counter Rotate (not Magic); (5) from a parallelogram double pass thru -- Parallelogram Once Removed Turn Thru; (6) from parallelogram infacing lines -- Parallelogram Swing Along; (7) from a parallelogram eight chain thru -- Parallelogram Rotary Spin.



Ann Uebelacker

Anne Uebelacker was the featured caller for the November Trailblazers weekend. At the Friday C-3A dance session, Anne presented a fairly basic dance. Some of the more interesting calls included: (1) from parallel two-faced lines -- Stretched Box Reach Out; (2) from infacing lines -- Left Grand Chain 8; (3) from parallel two-faced lines -- Fascinating Chain Down The Line; (4) from a 1/4 line -- Initially As Couples, Scoot & Counter; (5) from a tidal wave -- Finally Tandem, Flip Back; (6) from parallel single file columns with boys as #1 and #2 in the columns -- Own The Boys, Invert The Column 1/2 by Cross Back; (7) from a butterfly trade by -- Split Phantom Ease Off; (8) from a stagger eight chain thru with outside belles on the main diagonal -- Split Phantom Column

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) **[DANCE REVIEW]**

Transfer The Column; (9) from a stagger eight chain thru with outside belles on the main diagonal -- Split Phantom Column Triple Play.

At the Saturday A-2 workshop session, Anne concentrated on "Reverse". First she taught the "Reverse Order" concept where dancers execute the various parts of a call in reverse order. Examples included: (1) from back-to-back couples -- Reverse Order Right & Left Thru; (2) from an ocean wave -- Reverse Order Spin The Top; (3) from a right-hand or left-hand ocean wave -- Reverse Order Swing Thru; (4) from parallel ocean waves -- Reverse Order Scoot & Weave; (5) from an ocean wave -- Reverse Order Swing & Mix; (6) from a right-hand ocean wave -- Reverse Order 1/4 Thru. Anne also taught two "Reverse" calls from a higher level that are both executed starting from a diamond: (7) Reverse Flip The Diamond -- centers flip out one position as the points do their part of a Diamond Circulate to become the new centers; (8) Reverse Cut The Diamond -- centers trade and then slide apart as the points do their part of a Diamond Circulate to become the new centers.

Other interesting calls used during the session included: (9) from outfacing lines -- Left Turn & Deal; (10) from facing diamonds -- Split Counter Rotate. Anne also briefly introduced the "Tandem" concept where two dancers in single file work as one dancer.

At the A-2 dance session, Anne used some of the calls and ideas from the workshop session, but also introduced another concept. The "Initially" concept specifies another concept immediately after the word "Initially" and is then followed by a call. Dancers execute the given call but do the first part utilizing the specified concept: (1) from parallel ocean waves -- Initially Tandem, Swing Thru; (2) from parallel ocean waves -- Initially Tandem, Swing & Mix; (3) from parallel ocean waves -- Initially Tandem, Mix; (4) from an eight chain thru -- Initially As Couples, Pass & Roll; (5) from facing couples -- Initially As Couples, Single Circle To A Wave; (6) from a tidal two-faced line -- Initially As Couples Spin The Top; (7) from a tidal two-faced line -- Initially As Couples Mix.

The Sunday C-1 session was a basic dance session. Some of the more interesting calls included: (1) from a double pass thru -- All 8 Counter Rotate & Roll; (2)

from parallel right-hand or left-hand two-faced lines or from inverted lines with infacing ends -- Tally Ho; (3) from a formation formed from a completed double pass thru and having the beaux Quarter In -- Do Your Part, All Acey Deucey; (4) from a 1/4 tag or parallel single file columns -- Ramble; (5) from a same-hand galaxy -- Tandem-Based Triangles Peel Off.

The Sunday C-2 session was also a basic dance session. The only call of interest was: (1) from a formation formed from parallel ocean waves and having the infacing ends and adjacent centers Hinge and then the same dancers Phantom All 8 Circulate -- All Phantom Stretch Recycle.

Writing these reviews has been quite demanding time-consuming. I have tried to keep them positive and to provide a service so that callers and dancers can review some exceptional material presented at our dance weekends. However, in the past few years the leadership of our club has strayed from our tradition of excellence and has adapted an attitude that "mediocre is good enough". I am now sorry to say that in many cases this has resulted in less than mediocre presentations and dismal dancing abilities. As a consequence, I find it increasingly difficult to keep a positive attitude and to find noteworthy material to include in my reviews. Since I can no longer justify the time and effort needed to continue, this is my last review.



(Continued from page 3) **[President's Message]**

Long-time member, Larry Zacks, recently passed away. And others have attended less frequently due to other commitments. This brings up a dilemma – how should the caller call a dance? If you cater to the newcomers and call a less challenging dance, the lower level dancers are encouraged. However, the higher level dancers may conclude that the dance is not challenging enough and stay away. On the other hand, if the dance is too challenging, higher level dancers are happy, but newcomers are intimidated and choose not to return. There is no easy solution to the problem. All of square dancing has fallen on lean times. Clubs are folding and dance attendance is down. Older dancers are moving on, and there are fewer dancers entering at all levels. Our main source of new members is at the lower levels. There may not be a flood of prospects, but those who have attended our dances and have returned have shown growth that they would not otherwise get at any other dance. Their enthusiasm and the spreading of positive comments about our club will continue to keep our club growing. Let's make sure to support these lower level dancers.

A note of thanks goes out to two great people. First, were it not for Mel Branham, the Trailblazers would not have a Sunday home for our C1/C2 dance. Mel provides enormous support for the square dance community. When halls have increased in cost and decreased in number, Mel has opened up his location for all. He has been more than flexible by changing his schedule to allow for a Trailblazer dance on Saturday when we were pre-empted from our Paramount location. Thank you Mel! Another thanks goes to Craig Shucker for all the hard work he has done writing the Dance Review each month. It takes time to monitor all the unusual calls and their positioning at a dance. Craig has taken notes and summarized them for both caller and dancer use. His last review appears in this issue. Thank you, Craig, for your hard work.

Our December dance features Vic Ceder. It prom-

ises to be special, as only Vic can deliver. In January, Dave Wilson, comes all the way from Sweden. Dave doesn't call in California that often. Everyone will be in for a treat with his smooth, creative calling. Be sure to mark your calendars and make an extra effort to attend these dances.

See you on the dance floor.



IN MEMORY OF LARRY ZACKS

Larry and I began square dancing in 1948 the year we were married. Larry had taken and enjoyed a square dance class in college the year before we met. Little did we know what an influence the dancing would have on our way of life and on our relationships with other people. We went from the main stream dancing (that most people know about) to advanced dancing and into Challenge. Larry loved all the levels. He anealed the TrailDusters beginning classes for about 7 or 8 years. We always had to dance all the tips at a dance rarely sitting out a tip. We never went to a dance where we left early. The last two years were years with no dancing for Larry and just a few dances for me before I gave up. When he died, I asked our friend Irene to tell the square dance world. I was amazed at the outpouring of memorable moments many of us shared together, the thoughtful comments about Larry and his personality and the prayers people shared. I thank TrailBlazers and Pace for 20 plus unforgettable years.

LILLIAN ZACKS



**Tommy says: Check out our new website at
[Http: //www.trailblazers-socal.org](http://www.trailblazers-socal.org)**

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Friday Schedule
C-3A 8:00 - 11:00 pm
 C-3 Tips at 10:30

ROSEMEAD BLVD
 TEMPLE CITY BLVD
 KAUFFMAN AVE.
 BALDWIN AVE.
 LONGDEN AVE
 WOODRUFF AVE
 LAS TUNAS DR
 WOMEN'S CLUB
 TO 710 FWY ← 10 FWY → TO 605 FWY →

TEMPLE CITY WOMEN'S CLUB
 9704 Woodruff Ave., Temple City

Saturday Schedule
A-2 WORKSHOP: 2:15 - 5:00 pm
 DANCE: 7:30 - 10:00 pm
 Two C-1 *Tips each session
 Two C-2 *Tips 7:00 - 7:30 pm

COMMUNITY CENTER
 105 FWY.
 ROSECRANS AVE.
 SOMERSET BLVD.
 ALONDRA BLVD.
 710 FWY.
 GARFIELD AVE.
 PARAMOUNT BLVD.
 DOWNEY AVE.
 605 FWY.
 91 FWY.

PARAMOUNT COMMUNITY CENTER
 14400 Paramount Blvd., Paramount

Sunday Schedule
C-1 11:15 am - 1:45 pm
 One C-2 *Tip
C-3B 2:45 - 3:10 pm
C-2 3:15 - 5:30 pm
 Two C-3A *Tips

SHOPPING CENTER
 22 FWY.
 BOLSA CHICA RD.
 WESTMINSTER BLVD
 SPRINGDALE ST.
 GOLDENWEST ST
 BEACH BLVD
 BOLSA AVE
 EDINOR AVE
 405 FWY

Located in Shopping Center
 5946 Westminister Ave., Westminister
 (at Springdale)

*

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,
 ALL FRIDAY NIGHT C-3A
 DANCES WILL BE HELD AT
 Temple City Women's Club
 9704 Woodruff Avenue
 (626) 286-9930**

TRAILBLAZER

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 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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