



# TRAILBLAZER



SERVING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ADVANCED/CHALLENGE SQUARE DANCE COMMUNITY

Feb/Mar, 2007

Volume XXVI Number 1

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY

John & Carolyn Melstrom



JOHN & CAROLYN MELSTROM

Wow! What a way to close out the old year and usher in the new year. The December dance featured Vic Ceder at his best. Trailblazer members and guests were treated to a variety of calls from unusual positions. The asymmetrics were awesome and had everyone shaking their head in disbelief when we ended up with our original partner. In January, Dave Wilson continued to dazzle us. He brought his mother along on his trip

to California and we were treated to some nice weather. Mixed in with his smooth-flowing style were many asymmetric calls. Dancers blinked in wonder as we transformed from lines of eight facing the back of the hall to right and left grands with our partner. There was very little "muddle in the middle" for we knew that Dave was on "our side". Visitors were very impressed with both dances and commented openly that you just don't get it like this at any other dance. They reiterated that Trailblazers truly are a 'cut above' everyone else.

The Trailblazers have three new members, Jane Clewe, Barbara Mosby, and Clara Baker. Their growth as dancers is apparent as they have become regular Saturday attendees. Their enthusiasm is contagious and is a great testimonial to the friendliness and helpfulness of our club. In other news, we are going to try to have each caller give a short summary of calls and concepts highlighted at the A2 workshop session. Although we no longer have Craig Shucker's Dance Reviews, callers would like to know what has been introduced so that each dance is unique and not repetitive. (Continued on page 3)

## SOMETHING NEW

As you are undoubtedly aware, our Dance Review ended with the last issue of the Trailblazer. There have been a number of callers who have mentioned the value of the reviews in helping them see what calls and concepts have been highlighted at the Trailblazer dances. The reviews have also been helpful in preventing duplication of recent material at the Saturday A2 workshop. For this reason, we have asked Dave Wilson to recap some of the calls and concepts that he presented in his sessions. We hope to have our inaugural Workshop Highlights written by Dave Wilson. This material would also be available on our website under a new link titled Calls & Concepts.

We are delighted that Ruth Graser has offered to illustrate one or more calls described in the Workshop Highlights. Ruth performed a similar service previously in a newsletter section call "The Truth According to Ruth". Her diagrams and explanations will provide an added dimension for those who want to explore calls and concepts in greater detail. Thank you very much, Ruth.

## Coming Trailblazer Dances

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

### 2007

Feb 2, 3, 4	Bill Haynes
Mar 2, 3, 4	Sandra Bryant
Apr 6, 7, 8	Vic Ceder
May 4, 5, 6	Mike Jacobs
June 1, 2, 3	Lee Kopman
Jul 6, 7, 8	Sue Curtis
Aug 3, 4, 5	Darryl Lipscomb

**SPECIAL EVENTS!!**

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



Become the next TB Newsletter Editor and then YOU can put your picture in the newsletter. [As long as someone else is willing to take it.]

**For more EVENTS check out our new website**  
<http://www.trailblazers-socal.org>



2006 - 2007  
**TRAILBLAZER BOARD MEMBERS**



<p><b>President</b>  <b>1st Vice President</b>  <b>2nd Vice President</b>  <b>3rd Vice President</b>  <b>Secretary</b>  <b>Treasurer</b>  <b>A Square D Rep</b>  <b>President Emeritus</b></p>	<p><b>John &amp; Carolyn Melstrom</b>  <b>John &amp; Barbara Marshall</b>  <b>Connie Thousand &amp; Roger Byelick</b>                  Vacant  <b>John &amp; Peggy Martin</b>  <b>Robert &amp; Vickie Morris</b>  <b>Jeff Overbey</b>  <b>Craig Shucker</b></p>
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STATEMENT OF POLICY

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PUBLISHING DATA

**TRAILBLAZER** is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December.

MAILING ADDRESS

Address all correspondence to **TRAILBLAZER**  
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 Webmaster — Karl Springer,  
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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]**  
tive. We hope to have our inaugural Workshop Highlights written by Dave Wilson.

Another observation I would like to note is the attendance at our dances by other callers. We are indeed fortunate that callers like Mike Seastrom and Mike Kellogg take time from their busy schedules to come to our A2 and C1/C2 sessions. This is not meant to discount the regular attendance of Trailblazer club-member callers like Henry Grissett, Craig Shucker, Hal Anker, Rod Anderson, Robert Morris, Carl McCullough, and David Heffron. However, the attendance of outside callers certainly provides them with a different perspective of advanced and challenge level calling that they can draw upon. Recent remarks by visiting callers Nasser Shukayr and Jerry Junck indicated they were very impressed by the level of our dances. The Trailblazers welcome other callers to join us for a fun time.

And now to a little light-hearted commentary. A number of issues ago I came up with excuses for breaking down on various calls. They seemed amusing at the time and I thought they would never be needed. However, at Dave Wilson's A2 dance I found need of a big excuse. My square was in a parallelogram formation with lines facing out. When Dave called "Up to the middle and back" and I turned around and saw every square on the floor in regular facing lines, I knew that I needed to find a few new excuses. The following reasons (excuses) for breakdown were compiled by Craig. We'll go by dance level so as not to leave anybody out.

Mainstream:

Ferris Wheel - I'm afraid of heights.  
Spin The Top - I got dizzy.

Plus:

Crossfire - I was wounded.  
Load The Boat - The boat sank.

A1:

Cast A Shadow - There wasn't enough light.  
Quarter In - I only had a dime.

A2:

Motivate - I just couldn't get myself up for it.

(Continued on page 6)

## NEW TRAILBLAZER MEMBERS

Jane Clewe  
Barbara Mosby  
Clara Baker

[Editors note: I hope to have pictures of our new members for the next Trailblazer Newsletter.]

### Happy New Year!!

Just wanted to tell you how much I have enjoyed dancing with you over the years. As you know, my health has not been the greatest. It is at the point now that I am in almost constant pain. And that means more medication. I dislike taking the medication, as it addles my brain and, in turn, slows down my reflexes. I have always hoped that I would have enough common courtesy and common sense to stop dancing before I became a detriment to the square or class. I am at that point now. It is with great sorrow that I say goodbye to the dancing that I have loved so much. I will be thinking of all of you on Trailblazer and PACE weekends and all of the dances and classes in between

Please note that my e mail address is [hbsuedavis@yahoo.com](mailto:hbsuedavis@yahoo.com) and not the address this is written from.

Thank you all for the wonderful friend ships and all the great times dancing. Please keep in touch.

Sue Davis

[Editors note: this was an email from Sue. It was printed here with her approval.]

## WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

### Dave Wilson

Here are some of the ideas which I worked or “taught on the fly”:

Checkmate from beginning double pass thru and completed double pass thru.

From a CDPT setup, I suggested it should look like a track 2...but go all the way through (Track 4) and Quarter In. I understand that the purist might feel a left Track 2 would be more in keeping with the crossing rule.

As couples and then individually crossfire Also, from a tidal Two-Faced line (4 facing one way) with the boys in the middle of the square: boys As Couples Run Right, followed by As Couples Crossfire.

From Lines facing, ends pass thru, centers swing thru:

Centers start right and left thru or  
Centers Start: pass the ocean or  
Crossfire (end in parallel RH waves)

From a DPT: First part tandem, pass the ocean

From As Couples Ocean Wave: First part as couples, pass in

From Zero Lines, Heads Cast: As Couples Peel Off

From an as couples diamond: First part as couples, diamond chain through

Trail off from a Z

Do-si-do from right hand waves.

In a tidal wave, with everyone facing the caller, 6X2 step and slide, then, 4X2 step and slide, then, step and slide

In a tidal wave, with everyone facing the caller, center 6 as couples, here comes the judge, then, center four as couples, here comes the judge, then, center 2 here comes the judge

Cheers,

Dave



**Vic Ceder**  
**December 2006**



**Dave Wilson**  
**January 2007**

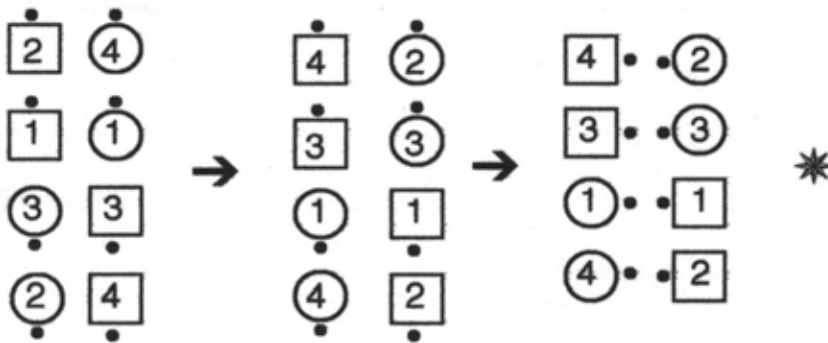
# DIAGRAMS BY ROOTH

PEEL AND TRAIL — from a "Z" (distorted box of four)



NOTE: A "Z" is a distorted box of four. When a call ends in a box, the "Z" formation remains. When the box call ends in a line, the "Z" is dissolved.

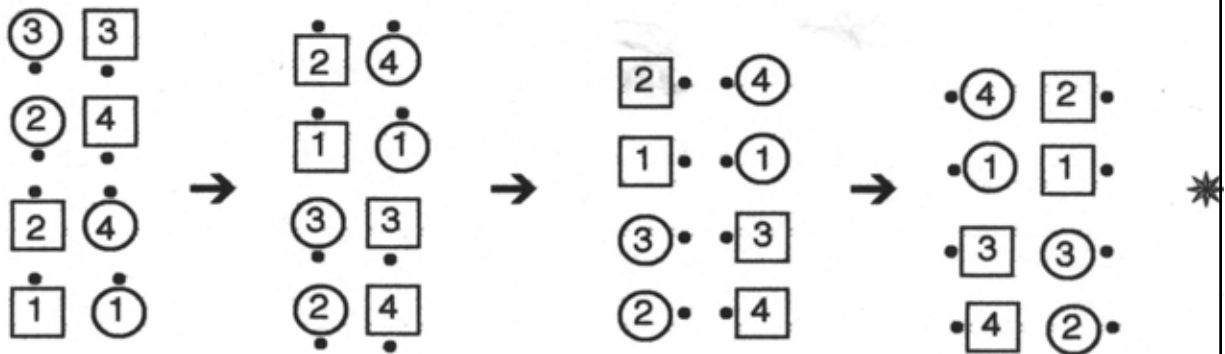
CHECKMATE THE COLUMN — from Completed DPT formation



After 4 Column Circulates

After Face In

CHECKMATE THE COLUMN — From DPT formation



After 2 Column Circulates

After Facing In

After Circulate

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

Single Wheel – I can't ride a unicycle.

C1:

Cross Your Neighbor – He/She got revenge.

Stretch – I pulled a muscle.

C2:

Detour – I was misdirected.

Drop In – I wasn't invited.

C3A:

Plan Ahead – I don't have a Plan B.

Stampede – I was trampled.

C3B:

Change Lanes – I had a fender bender.

Disband – We did and there were not enough dancers left.

OK, this will get you started. Next time there is a mishap and everyone is standing around looking frustrated, lighten up the situation with a quick retort, smile, and try to establish lines or waves.

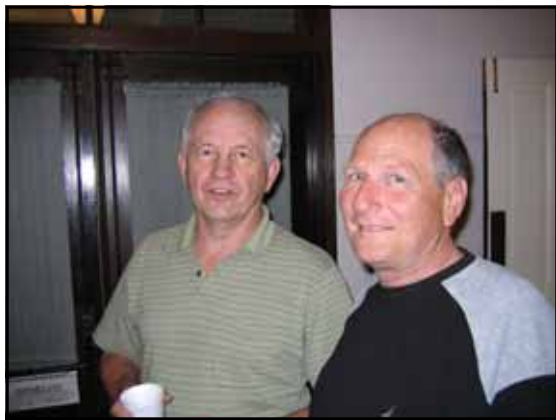
Elections are coming up shortly. The Trailblazers are running smoothly under the guidance of a terrific Board of officers. There is always, however, a need for new people to join the team. We encourage you to volunteer to help in any capacity. And, if asked by a board member to help, don't hesitate. Step forward. We look to continue the fine tradition of this club. Square dancing in general, and clubs in particular, may be experiencing a decline, but the Trailblazers intend to show that the opposite is true. Be a part of the team that is making this possible.

Our next two dances are sure to be crowd pleasers. In February Bill Haynes joins us, ready to let loose after a winter with the Snow Birds. We can be assured that the dance will be unique and challenging. In March, the Trailblazers will host Sandra "Sandie" Bryant. Coming from the colder climes of the Midwest, Sandie will want to thaw out and heat things up. Be sure to put both

dates on your calendars and join us for two great weekends of dancing. January's dance attendance increased, perhaps in part because of a letter sent to all Trailblazer members. We'll try it again for future dances. Trailblazer members will get a reminder message from us as well as Karl Springer's reminder.

See you on the dance floor.





**Tommy says: Check out our new website at <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 805 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  
 EDINGER 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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