



TRAILBLAZER



SERVING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ADVANCED/CHALLENGE SQUARE DANCE COMMUNITY

Dec/Jan 2010/2011

Volume XXIX Number 6

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY

John & Carolyn Melstrom



John and Carolyn Melstrom

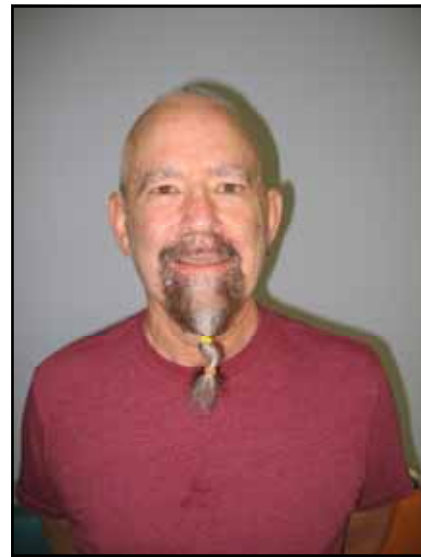
Aloha from the Hawaiian Islands. Carolyn and I are having a very relaxing time visiting Maui, Oahu, and the Big Island. We left shortly after the October dance and we return just before Christmas. It's very easy to get into the Aloha spirit. Sightseeing, attending luaus, relaxing in the pools, and enjoying sunsets and tropical drinks – it truly is Paradise. It is

also a great way to distance ourselves from some of the issues that we were facing at home. It's not that they disappear, but time allows different perspectives and the chance to regroup. When we return we get the opportunity to re-learn all the stuff we have forgotten!

Patricia Wahle filled in for Anne Uebelacker for the October Trailblazer dance. I was prepared and in good health for Anne, having missed previous dances due to crazy things like a broken back or the gout. This time, Anne was the victim, unable to call due to the loss of her voice. Patricia graciously filled in at the last minute, with very little time to prepare. She started off the dance weekend by pointing out that she and Anne had something in similar – Anne comes from VANcouver, and Patricia comes from Van Nuys! Patricia called a great weekend. She had plenty of material that kept the dancers challenged and entertained. It was difficult getting quotes from Patricia, but when she did comment, I got it down on tape. The Trailblazers give a big "Thanks" for coming to the rescue.

Since I was not in town for Todd Fellegy's November
(Continued on page 6)

Trailblazers is pleased to announce our newest member **Ben Teller**



Coming Trailblazer Dances

Saturday—1st Session C-1, 2nd Session A-2

Sunday—1st Session C-2, 2nd Session C-3A

See the last Page for Locations

Dec 4, 5, 2010	Saundra Bryant
Jan 1, 2, 2011	DARK
Feb 5, 6, 2011	Bill Haynes
Mar 5, 6, 2011	Todd Fellegy
Apr 2, 3, 2011	Barry Clasper
May 7, 8, 2011	John Marshall
June 4, 5, 2011	Ross Howell

SPECIAL EVENTS!!

Nov 26-28, 2010	PACE EXTRAVAGANZA Oxnard, CA Featuring: Vic Ceder, Rob French & CJ Smith Special Guest Callers: Dave Heffron & Carl McCullough C-1 thru C-4 Info: Paul Libis (818) 368-8025 Julia Hoffman (559) 909-0405 Email: julieh54@sbcglobal.net
Mar 12, 2011	PHANTOM SQUARES C-3A WORKSHOP Manhattan Beach, CA Featuring: Bronc Wise Info: Sharon & Ralph Simon (818) 769-3222 Gail & Nick Boone (818) 991-2706
Mar 18-20, 2011	BAKERSFIELD FIESTA Kern County Fairgrounds Bakersfield, CA Featuring in the Challenge Hall: Vic Ceder and Bronc Wise C-1 with * tips Info: 661-399-3658 www.bakersfieldfiesta.com

For more EVENTS and info check out our website

[Http://www.trailblazers-socal.org](http://www.trailblazers-socal.org)



2010 -- 2011
TRAILBLAZER BOARD MEMBERS



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A Square D Rep	David Yamasaki

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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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.

Patricia Wahle



**CALLER FOR
TRAILBLAZER DANCE
October 2010**

Todd Fellegy



**CALLER FOR
TRAILBLAZER DANCE
November 2010**

Caller Quotes by Patricia Wahle

Oh, I think I got 'em half out.
We're not quite done yet.
John asked, "What did she say?" Patricia answered,
"I didn't say anything"
They're nice people, I promise.
The centers, who are FACING ...
How do you expect me to resolve it when you are
doing that over there?
Make one of these.
Is the sound not traveling all the way to the back?

Limerick by Patricia Wahle

There was an old man from Blackheath,
Who sat on his set of false teeth,
Said he with a start,
Oh Lord, bless my heart,
I've bitten myself underneath.

**Calls and Concepts by
Todd Fellegy**

Tally Ho from two-faced lines.
Trail the Top

Caller Quotes by Todd Fellegy

Flutter Wheel – Get rid of them
We'll do it again for you non believers
Also known as "Go Home"
In your staggered column – some are more staggered
than others
Look for an "O" or a "Q"
Oh, I gotta see that again!
The heads bend, like you always do

POINT OF ORDER from Kappie Kappenman
ARE YOU A GIVER OR A TAKER?

By Charlie Norman, Pointe Claire, Quebec
American Squaredance April 1987

It will soon be that time when square dance clubs are looking for people to serve on club executive committees. I would like to share some thoughts on the subject with you.

My wife and I have been square dancing for over seven years serving four years on the club executive committee (including as presidents), and now work on various smaller committees. The time spent has been fulfilling, rewarding and yes, at times frustrating, but I would strongly recommend that anyone given the opportunity should readily do so.

Do you know how hard it is to find good people to serve in positions of importance which affect the future of your club? True, there are those dancers with legitimate reasons for being unable to serve, but on the other hand there are those who just don't want to get involved.

Maybe you've been asked to serve and are hesitating, having some doubts if you could handle the job. We are all unsure about new things; it's part of our nature. Remember, when making up your mind, that there are always other people to help you. Those who have held the same position in the past are a storehouse of information and your fellow executive committee members are there to help you. There are more pluses than minuses in serving on a committee. The positions are not demanding. In turn, you get to know more people, make new friends and help out an activity from which you derive so much enjoyment. Don't cheat yourself. Do it and have some fun.

I've learned to classify people into "givers" and "takers." Takers turn down all requests to serve their clubs, no matter how small the job. Then they come to a dance, enjoy themselves and leave with no thought of the effort it takes to put on a dance. These people are the first to complain if something is not to their liking. Can you imagine the state the club would be in if all the members were "takers?"

Perhaps you really can't serve on an executive committee and don't have the time for other smaller committee work. You can still be a "giver" and help the club in many ways.

1. Offer to take the place of those always at the "sign-in" desk so they can dance.
2. Help put out tables and chairs at refreshment time. There is always a need for willing hands. Or offer your services in setting out food and cleaning up.
3. Stay behind after a dance and help put away chairs and tables and take down decorations.
4. Offer to copy flyers or other club notices, if you are in a position to do so.
5. Host a visiting caller or cuer if you have a spare bedroom.

I am sure you can think of many other small ways to help out in the day to day activities of the club. Just keep your eyes and ears open – you'll see them.

It's important that all dancers take turns serving the club. We can really take advantage of the "givers" who are always willing to work. Many of us take it for granted we can get these people to serve, but is it really fair? Why not let "givers" retire for a while? Let them come to a dance "just to dance", to forget the club and square dance problems. You can bet in no time, they'll be back to work again for the club with

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renewed vigor.

Do you know the highest instance of dropouts in the activity? It's people who have served as club presidents. Do you know why? I think it's simply lack of gratitude for all their hard work. I say it's about time clubs start paying tribute to those "givers" in their midst – dedicated people who devote much time and effort so that we dancers can have a good time. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just some recognition.

My wife and I worked hard during our year as presidents, it being the twenty-fifty anniversary year, and planned special events as well as coordinating a reunion weekend. At the end of the club year, we were called up on the stage and thanked and Jennifer was given a bouquet of flowers. That meant a great deal to us.

Why not try "giving?" You and your club will be better for it.

(Reprinted from ZIP CODER, September 2010 issue)



ATTENTION C-3A DANCERS

C-3A dancers who have already completed learning all the 3A calls will soon have an opportunity to fine tune their skills at a one-day workshop with **Bronc Wise**, to be held in Manhattan Beach on Saturday, March 12. The total price for the two sessions on Saturday is \$20 per person.

The workshop is currently full, but interested dancers, including C3-B and C-4 angels, are asked to contact Ralph and Sharon Simon to be placed on the waiting list. Refunds for those currently enrolled will be made **ONLY** if the space can be filled. Direct cancellations to Sharon and Ralph.

Bronc's plan is to do two full workshops on Saturday. The hours for Saturday will be: 11:00 to 1:30 and 2:30 to 5:00.

Any questions can be directed to Ralph and Sharon Simon at (818) 769-3222 or Nick and Gail Boone at (818) 991-2706.

(Continued from page 1) **PRESIDENT'S MSG** dance, I can't comment directly. But, the other Johns (Marshall and Martin) did get quotes and hopefully a few pictures. I know that Todd's dance was great, as always. His humor and relaxed delivery certainly kept the floor entertained.

I want to thank John and Barbara Marshall for filling in for Carolyn and me while we are gone. John handles everything, no matter how great a crisis it is. You can always count on dances and other Trailblazer affairs to proceed as normal. Thanks also to all the other Board members who make everything run to perfection. Everyone fills in for each other and we never miss a beat.

I got one feedback from Keith Rubow regarding my last article about unique square dancer names.

He remarked, "I met Jenny Allogy at a dance. She said she was my second cousin, but it turned out we were once-removed." I guess these jokes apply to all square dance levels. That one might have been a challenge to a Plus dancer. I have found several other unique square dance clubs, including the Ever Downers and the Mentally Stretched. I will write about some of their more memorable members in a future article.

Mentally Stretched brings to mind something that we hear at many dances. Somewhere out on the floor, muffled to disguise the owner, usually hidden behind moving bodies, comes the shout, "Harder, faster!" Be careful what you ask for. I have noticed that when the caller hears the shout, the rate of square failure goes up, sometimes dramatically. Sometimes it is because the tempo of the music is slower than usual. A change to a faster tempo solves the problem. But often, the difficulty of the calls does not have to be raised much to start squares going south. We all have limits where smooth, confident dancing turns to awkward, uneasy dancing. And very often that limit is met with familiar calls, but in a new or different position. It may be only one or two people in a square that reach their limit, but the end result is that all eight pay the price. Fortunately, most callers are able to assess the level of difficulty that the floor can stand, and they adjust their calling to accommodate the majority of the dancers. But remember before you shout, a small increase in difficulty may have a great effect on the rest of the floor.

Sandie Bryant will be the Trailblazer caller in December. Hopefully our weather will be more to her liking than the Midwest. One thing for sure, we know that her smooth calling will be a hit for everyone. In January, the Trailblazers are DARK. So, in that regard, and since Carolyn and I won't see you until the February dance, we wish you a Mele Kalikimaka and a Hau'oli Makahiki Hou.

See you on the dance floor.

TRAILBLAZERS

A CUT ABOVE WITH LOTS OF FRIENDLY HELP!

A-2/C-1 SCHEDULE

2011

Jan. 1, 2011	<u>Dark</u>	July 2, 2011	Tim Ploch
Feb. 5, 2011	Bill Haynes	Aug. 6, 2011	Rob French CJ Smith
Mar. 5, 2011	Todd Fellegy	Sept. 3, 2011	Bronc Wise
Apr. 2, 2011	Barry Clasper	Oct. 1, 2011	Darryl Lipscomb
May 7, 2011	John Marshall	Nov. 5, 2011	Dave Wilson
June 4, 2011	Ross Howell	Dec. 3, 2011	Sandra Bryant

Dances are at Paramount Community Center.

1st Saturday of the month

C-1: 11:15 AM-1:45 PM

Last tip increased difficulty at C-1

A-2: 3:15-5:45 PM

Last tip increased difficulty at A-2



Information
John & Carolyn Melstrom
(714) 968-3888
 -or-
John & Barbara Marshall
(626) 448-1061
www.trailblazers-socal.org

Singles Welcome!
Singles Rotation Available

Square dance attire
is optional



TRAILBLAZERS

A CUT ABOVE WITH LOTS OF FRIENDLY HELP!

C-2/C-3A SCHEDULE

2011

Jan. 2, 2011	<u>Dark</u>	July 3, 2011	Tim Ploch
Feb. 6, 2011	Bill Haynes	Aug. 7, 2011	Rob French CJ Smith
Mar. 6, 2011	Todd Fellegy	Sept. 4, 2011	Bronc Wise
Apr. 3, 2011	Barry Clasper	Oct. 2, 2011	Darryl Lipscomb
May 8, 2011	John Marshall	Nov. 6, 2011	Dave Wilson
June 5, 2011	Ross Howell	Dec. 4, 2011	Saundra Bryant

Dances are at Mel's Place;

Sunday following the 1st Saturday of the month

C-2: 11:15 AM-1:45 PM

Last tip increased difficulty at C-2

C-3A: 3:15-5:45 PM

Last tip is C-3B



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Singles Rotation Available**

**Square dance attire
is optional**



Saturday Schedule

C-1 11:15 AM — 1:45 PM

A-2 3:15 PM — 5:45 PM



Sunday Schedule

C-2 11:15 AM — 1:45 PM

C-3A 3:15 PM — 5:45 PM



TRAILBLAZER

441 21st Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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