

TIDBITS

Valley Trailers Square Dance Club

EDITOR
BOB MITCHELL

NEW VALLEY TRAILERS CLUB OUTFITS

Yahoo!! After months of searching for just the right fabric, pattern, and style - at a price everyone can afford - we finally found the perfect Valley Trailers outfits. The rose print in the skirt is a stunning vintage pattern in our Club colors of red, black and white. It definitely has the 'wow' effect we had hoped to find.

The skirt is a cotton blend with a little spandex for comfort. Instead of an elastic waist, the skirt has a waistband which closes with a zipper and makes it more comfortable. We have washed the skirt and dried it on low heat and it came out beautifully. The Board has chosen a black blouse of your choice with a black elastic belt and a black slip to wear with the rose print skirt. And, now, for the 'piece de resistance', this fabulous skirt will



cost under \$20.00!! That's right - under \$20.00. I know it's beginning to sound like a middle of the night ad on TV, but it's true - this beautiful skirt is less than \$20.00. We have already purchased a few skirts in various sizes—small, medium, large, extra-large, and 2 extra-large. Some of the gals want to purchase a second skirt so they

Continued on Page 3

**SEPTEMBER
2016**

**Don't Forget
CLOTHING
RACK**

**August 30
6:00 pm**

The next Valley Trailers' Clothing Rack is August 30th. The time is almost here, so get yourselves ready to shop till you drop. It is on Tuesday, August 30th, at 6:00 pm at the Wilkinson Senior Center. I hope to see all you hungry people that night, hungry for shopping.

Renee Krall

**NEW VALLEY
TRAILERS
SQUARE
DANCE CLASS**

**Starts Sept. 13
Invite a friend to
join you in the fun.**

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



We would like to thank the dancers who supported the demo at the First United Methodist Church in San Fernando on August 7. To say it was interesting is an understatement. First of all, Don Schadt, our caller, forgot all about it, so we had no music or microphones. But have no fear; Tom Beatty was there. He stepped up as he does on Tuesday nights before class.



We had four squares on the floor, and each new person had an experienced dancer to help them through the calls. Everyone had a good time and we got a few to give us names and phone numbers. Ethel Ball will call and remind them when class starts.

We're sure that all who at-

Thank you from the Friedman Family

The Friedman family, Mark, Mehrnaz, and Mark's mother, Ida, wishes to express their gratitude for all the kind wishes and condolences they received from the Valley Trailers on the recent passing of Mark's father, Stan. It was very much appreciated.

tend class on Tuesday nights have seen the box that David Ptashne has for canned goods and other staples that people donate. He delivers these goods to the West Valley Food Pantry. If you have some extra canned goods or any type of nonperishable items, please bring them to class. Even if the food is past its expiration date, the Pantry will take it. This is just another thing we do to help people who are in need.

Let us not forget the fund-raiser dance for the American Cancer Society on September 11th at 2:00 pm in the Wilkinson Senior Center. The Club will be paying the rent for the hall and also giving a cash donation. We are sure that most of us have been touched in one way or another by this deadly disease. Make sure you get your ribbons from Sue Cohen and talk it up to get everyone to attend. Hope to see you in a square real soon and yellow rocks to all.

Don & Renee

APPOINTED BOARD POSITIONS FOR 2016-17

CALLER
COORDINATOR
 BOB DAVIS
CLOTHING RACK
 RENEE KRALL
FACILITIES
COORDINATOR
 MARY BEATTY
MERCHANDISE
 MYLTA WOODRUFF
 SHERRIL PTASHNE
PARLIAMENTARIAN
 MEL SUKOW
WAGON MASTER
 DON KRALL
WEB MASTER
 NICK & GAIL KOULAX

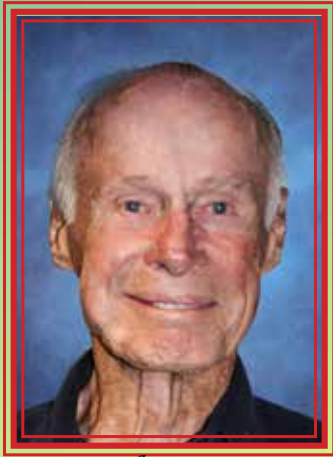


BOARD MEETING

SEPT. 7, 7:30PM
AT THE HOME OF
DON & RENEE
KRALL
ALL VT CLUB
MEMBERS ARE
WELCOME.

2

CALLER COORDINATOR



Bob Davis
Caller Coordinator

There's more than one Mike that visits us and calls the dances, and one of them, a famous caller to the VALLEY TRAILERS, is



Mike Sikorsky, and he will be on stage September 17th. A little background on Mike: He started calling as a young man in 1972, and legend has it that he paid his way through Cal State Northridge to obtain his bachelor's degree by calling square dances in the southern California area. Mike is noted for his choreography and his animation on stage as well as his singing ability. This gentleman with local heritage, now living in

Valley Trailers favorite. So on September 17, when he connects his microphone and voices "Let's square 'em up," be there to witness the event and put your hands together in appreciation. I know I will.

Cont'd from Page 1 NEW CLUB OUTFITS

can make a fuller skirt or a larger size skirt. The sizes run small; you will probably want a skirt 1-2 sizes larger than you normally wear. You will be able to try on the samples and decide for yourself. We only have a few now to purchase, but we will be ordering more early in September.

The men's outfit consists of black pants with a black belt, a black western shirt with a yoke of the rose print, and a solid red tie. We have found a place locally where we can get the shirts for under \$35.00. There will be an additional cost for the yoke fabric and the labor to sew it on the shirt. We haven't priced the red ties but the cost will be nominal. Remember, ladies, this is not meant to be your prom dress or your own fashion statement. This is a Valley Trailers' Club outfit that you will wear no more than once a month. Our purpose is to show unity and cohesiveness. We want to look the same so that at visitations and conventions, it will be apparent that the Valley Trailers are there! These striking outfits will give

the Valley Trailers a recognizable identity. We have a good club and great members. We can show it with our new outfits!

Our goal is to have all Valley Trailers members completely outfitted for our Club photo at our November 19th Anniversary Dance with Mike Seastrom and Charlie Robertson. Joy Starks will have sample skirts to try on on Tuesday nights at the class from 7-9:45 PM at the Wilkinson Center. For further information call Joy at 661-259-4261.

Joy Starks
Vice President

VT FALL PICNIC AND CAMPOUT

The Valley Trailers' Fall Picnic and Campout will be on October 1 at Valencia Travel Village on Hwy 126. We will start at 9:00 am with the Bean Bag Toss and after that the Club will serve lunch for all. This will be followed by some free time for all, then it will be Dog Race time. Next we will prepare for our potluck dinner, which is always a hit. To finish the evening off, we will have our white elephant sale and book sale. Don't forget to sign up for this fun day. If you have a rig, please see me to sign up. We have spots reserved from Thursday thru Saturday.

Don Krall,
Wagonmaster

VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORT



We are excited about being elected to serve as your Valley Trailers vice presidents for the coming year. We are ready to hit the dance floor running. Our goal is to get the whole club involved in this year's fun activities and to strengthen and expand our relationships with each other beyond just square dancing. We have the following parties and theme dances planned: in October the Monster Mash and Advanced Halloween Haunt dances, in November a special Anniversary Dance, in December an old fashioned Holiday Party, in January a Blacklight Dance, in February an Academy Awards Dance, in April a Western Dance, and in May a Hot Dog Hoedown Dance. For all you car buffs and back seat drivers, we are bringing back the CAR RALLY. There's a trophy plaque waiting for your name to be inscribed. The plaque is yours to proudly have in your home for one year or until the next rally.

Of course we will find other activities that will give us all an opportunity to get involved in your club and make new friends. We are looking for volunteers who want to help make this year's events truly memorable for us all. Each event will be special because you are a part of the planning. We want your ideas and your willingness to work. We are already in the planning phase of the Monster Mash on October 15th and the Advanced Halloween Haunt on October 29th. Nick and Gail Koulax created an amazing flyer for the Monster Mash; the promise of a \$50.00 award for the most original costume is not a mistake! The award can be yours, so get your thinking cap on and make an outstanding costume. If you have Halloween decorations you would like to share with us for the night, let us know. If you would like to help us make Wilkinson a thrilling haunted mansion scary enough to frighten even the hardiest man, let us know.

We are also working on something a little more suave, our Anniversary Dance. This is our 62nd anniversary and we want it to be special. You can help us accomplish that goal.

We have begun work on our old fashioned Holiday Party. We want to bring back our childhood memories of years gone by with homemade gingerbread houses on each dining table and gingerbread cookies for you to take home.

As you might have guessed, we need a lot of help to make the decorations, so call Joy right away if you're interested in baking and creating a masterpiece. We will begin to bake and decorate the gingerbread houses by the end of August. It takes a lot of time just to make one house; to make 15-20 houses takes just a little more! You don't need to be an experienced baker; Joy will show you how. If baking isn't your thing, but you would like to work with us, we need people to cut out cardboard pieces to strengthen the houses, people to decorate the houses with candy, and people to frost trees that will be placed on the sides of the houses. We need you! Please call Rob and Joy to volunteer at 661-259-4261.

Rob and Joy Starks
Vice Presidents

Labor Day Jamboree 2016

Sept 2, 3, 4
Plus - Advanced
Callers:

Charlie Robertson,
Dan Clairmont, Don
Wood, Romney
Tannehill
Embassy Suites,
Arcadia

Charlie or Kristi
909-202-1054

4

WAY TO GO!!!



Congratulations go to Jacob Sobel for getting a scholarship from the California Square Dance Council. The award was presented to Jacob at the annual Valley Trailers' picnic on July 17.

CLUB MEMBER DRAWING

At the Club dance on July 16 with Pat Carnathan, Judith Arner's name was drawn in the Club member drawing, but, unfortunately for her, she was not present to claim the \$30 prize, so the pot goes to \$40 for the August dance. That is getting to where it would be a nice addition to any wallet, so plan to be there to be sure you don't miss out! And Andy Allemao will be calling that dance, so now you have two good reasons to be there.

SUMMER PICNIC 2016

Sixty-four Valley Trailers participated in the Club Picnic on July 17th. With 17 guests and five class members present, we had 86 people in Marci Brewer and Lou Nitza's backyard. Guests enjoyed playing shuffle board,



pool, and swimming. Twenty brave souls tried to "Pin the Tail on the Donkey". Don and Renee's granddaughter, Megan Krall, was right on target and won. Adele Kirby was the first to try--and with urging from the watch



ers--came in second. Anita Sheidenberger was a super assistant. Virginia

Heidt, Joy and Rob Starks, and John Sheidenberger, among others, were great at cheering and directing the blindfolded contestants.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious appetizers and desserts brought by the attendees. The hot dogs and salads along with the beverages were provided by the club. Thank you all for participating. We had so much food that a lot of it came to the class the next two weeks.

A special thank you to Nick Koulax, Doug Sobel, and Don Krall for their Saturday morning muscles that helped us set up. Mel Sukow, Tom Beatty, and Steven Koch were among the many helpers on clean up.

This was the 30th picnic that Marci held at her home.

THANK YOU, MARCI!!

**Sue Cohen
Vice President**

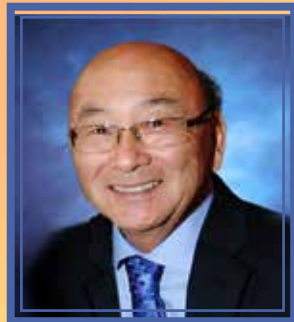


Have you ever heard a dog sing? If you didn't hear Wanda, Steve and Lourdes's dog, singing, then you missed a rare opportunity. The dog has a promising future in the entertainment business!

VY PICNIC JULY 17



ROY'S REVIEWS



Roy Okada

VT CLUB DANCE

The annual transition has begun. The July Club dance marks the changing of the guard for the newly elected officers serving the members of the 2016-2017 Valley Trailers. Nearly all of the new officers were present at the Saturday dance with Pat Carnathan calling and Cindy Mower cueing. Surprisingly, considering the summer heat, there were over 16 squares in attendance including 50 VT members.

The round dance portion of the evening continues to attract many couples of varying experience levels. It was



*John Sheidenberger
& Vicki Panaro*

great to see John Sheidenberger and Vicki Panaro out on the dance floor two-step-

ping with confidence. Cindy always encourages her new students to try the easy level



*Richard &
Irene Narita*

dances. Richard and Irene Narita, Valley Trailers' Plus class students, were amazed to see over 30 couples round dancing at the dance.

Kudos must be given to Jeanette Williams for her



*Jeanette
Williams*

successful singles rotation program. She also had her Mainstream student Bill Drowatzky dancing quite



Bill Drowatzky

comfortably at his first club dance. A few mistakes, but overall Bill was quite pleased with his initial effort.

The downside of the evening had to be the announcement of the elimination of the

split-the-pot drawing. Norm Hirsch expressed his displeasure by noting that although he doesn't square dance anymore, he still wants to support the club financially by participating in the 50-50.

The refreshments were perfect for the picnic theme with lots of ice cream, watermelon, and cookies. Bob and Sandy Licht did an incredible job



Sandy & Bob Licht

scooping out the ice cream for so many hungry dancers. At the same time, five squares were doing the A-1 star tip. Pat Carnathan commented about the unconventional alternating Plus and Mainstream dance format the Valley Trailers use, but he was impressed with the results.

As always, the Buckles & Bows, led by their president Bill Armstrong, continue to support the Valley Trailers' Club dances. It seems that every month their club has the most visiting dancers at the VT sponsored events. Thank you Buckles & Bows!

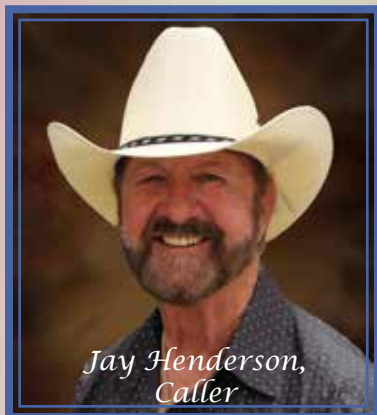




VT CLUB DANCE
JULY 16



ADVANCED DANCE



*Jay Henderson,
Caller*

Saturday, July 30, was the date of the Valley Trailers' most recent fifth Saturday Advanced dance. Jay Henderson was the caller and Cindy Mower cued the rounds. It was a typical warm midsummer evening, but the air conditioners in Wilkinson were working fine and it was a comfortable temperature for dancing. There were seven squares up for the A1 tips and, presuming that we got the count right, only one less for the A2 tips. It was nice to see some of the recent graduates from Buddy Weaver's Wednesday night A1 class out and dancing. Seven squares is a bit more than usual for these fifth Saturday dances, but the turnout would likely have been even higher if not for the fact that we were in competition with the Foothill Frolic in Covina, an A2 and C1 dance that would have attracted some of the more experienced Advanced dancers. However, when there are enough Advanced dances in the area that they begin to compete with each other, that can only

be considered a good thing.

Jay called a nice dance with good patter material and no singing calls. Club level dancers may find it odd that no singing calls is considered a good thing, but most if not all Advanced and Challenge level dancers prefer the challenge of new and different choreography provided in patter over the repetitive and predictable sequences used in singing calls. The tips ran a bit longer than the normal patter part of a typical club level tip, but without the singing part, the total tip length was a bit shorter than a typical patter plus singing tip, and the pace of the evening seemed to move along very nicely. The Valley Trailers' next fifth Saturday dance is coming up on October 29 with David Mee calling for us. David doesn't seem to get booked often for Advanced dances, at least not locally, so this will be something new for many of us. If you're an Advanced dancer, plan to come out for the dance, have a good time, and support your club.



SEPTEMBER VISITATION

Plans for our September visitation are in the works. We will attend the Saturday part of the Labor Day Jambo-ree in Arcadia on September 3. I will sell ribbons for the whole day or just Saturday night if you prefer that. Of course, you could also stay at the Embassy Suites and do the whole weekend.

Dancing and workshops on Saturday are from 10AM to 5PM with a break for lunch, and then pre-rounds at 7 followed by squares at 7:30 or 8. They're talking about having a FUN time; easy Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, full rounds, and workshops with an intro to Plus and to A1. So you think you know how to dance? Come out and see! Sounds like fun. See me at Wilkinson or give me a call for tickets.

**Sue Cohen,
Visitation Chair**



VT ADVANCED
DANCE
JULY 30
CALLER: JAY
HENDERSON



Host/Hostess

Please be there by 7pm. It is your responsibility to find a replacement or switch with someone if you are unable to help, and call Mary Beatty at 818-363-0009.

9/17

Irene Allen
Lynn Bernheim
Ron Bernheim
Paul Kayne

10/15

Pam Bailis
David Brown
Dolly Brown
Jeanette Williams

10/29 (Advanced)

Sandra DeBear
Gary Menke

11/19

DawnConner
Joan Kallet
Linda Kaplan
Larry Pettyjohn

Kitchen Patrol

Please be there by 7 pm. It is your responsibility to find a replacement or switch with someone if you are unable to help, and call Mary Beatty and Anita Sheidenberger.

9/17

Ray Cianci
Ricky Campos
Kathryn McKee
Irma Taylor

10/15

Doris Baum
Lee Baum
John Carpenter
May Carpenter

10/29

None Assigned

11/19/16

Larry Matz
Tina Matz
Marc Moore
Vicki Moore

MEMBERSHIP

Hi to everyone! Most of you already know that I'm back as the Membership Chair for the upcoming year.

By now, or within a few days, you should have received your membership renewal letters with the Member Information Sheet. Payments are due by September 1st. Please return the Member Info Sheet promptly with your check in the self-addressed stamped envelope. Remember that the dues are still \$20.00 per person for the year.

Many of you members no longer dance, but are loyal to the club and keep renewing your membership. We greatly appreciate your membership, but I would like to remind you that you are welcome to participate in any of the club activities, i.e., picnics, theatre parties, the holiday party, etc. Don't be a stranger--come and visit with the old-timers and meet some of the new club members! Without these new members and their enthusiasm to get involved in the running of the club, the Valley Trailers could not continue to be the best club in the Valley. We need everyone's support!

Mary Beatty
Membership



Virginia Kuhlmann	9/02
Larry Pettyjohn	9/04
Dona Thanstrom	9/05
Helene Hirsch	9/07
Lourdes Koch	9/07
Irene Nearhoff	9/07
Judy Goldstein	9/08
Bob Licht	9/08
Phyllis Goldstein	9/09
Chuck McMurray	9/09
Mary Beatty	9/10
Margo Burnett	9/10
John Tucker	9/10
Marlene Lovett	9/13
Sheri Albala	9/15
Sheila Woodard	9/15
Tova Sobel	9/18
Kathryn McKee	9/23
Diane Malman	9/24
Ed Palmer	9/24
Minnie McMurray	9/26
Susan Cohen	9/27



Bob and Carole Davis	9/08
Ralph and Viva Johnson	9/10

ASD DELEGATE



Hi All,
I am the Valley Trailers' ASD delegate as well as District Director of San Fernando Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara District. So, what is ASD (Associated Square Dancers of Southern California)? We started back in 1948 with seven clubs and have grown to now with over 300 clubs. ASD functions as an umbrella non-profit organization that provides liability insurance to all club members, non-profit status to all member clubs, assistance to clubs to help organize and promote square and round dancing, and provide direction and leadership for all member clubs. ASD sponsors five major dances each year: Valley District Student Stomp in January, The Sweetheart Ball in February, Orange District Leprechaun Ball in March, South Bay/Westside District Spring Fling in June, and The Presidential Ball in October. ASD publishes The Grapevine, a great source of information about clubs' activities and

dances. The Grapevine is distributed four times a year – on-line (ASD website) and handed out to each club.

Valley Trailers will host a fundraiser dance for the American Cancer Society on Sunday, September 11, from 2-4:30 pm at Wilkinson. The five amazing callers donating their time will be Buddy Weaver, Pat Carnathan, Hunter Keller, Mike Seastrom, and Ken Bower. Don't forget to tell friends, neighbors, and any strangers who will listen that our new beginners' class starts on Tuesday, September 13th, at 7pm. Labor Day Jamboree will be held at a new location this year, in Arcadia at the Embassy Suites Hotel from September 2 – 4. This is an official visitation for our club. Boots and Slippers will hold their 57th Anniversary Dance on August 27 in Simi Valley.

For now, that's all. Next

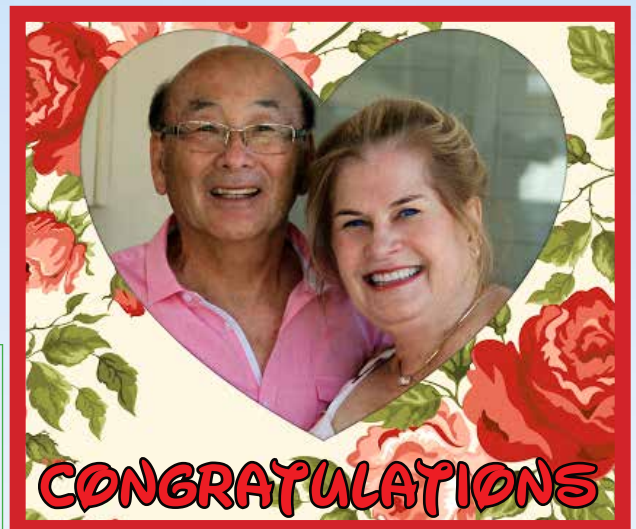
month I will write about some of the club's activities, issues, and problems that arise, and other news about our wonderful world of square dance. Love, laugh, dance.

Linda Kaplan
ASD Delegate

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY BENEFIT DANCE

Don't forget to get your ribbons for the American Cancer Society Benefit Dance on Sunday, September 11. Five of our top local callers are donating their time for this and Hunter Keller will be cueing rounds, so don't miss this opportunity to help a very deserving organization and have a good time in the process. The Society is a 501(c)(3) qualified organization with the IRS, so if you pay by check made out to American Cancer Society, your donation is tax deductible.

The Valley Trailers' newest married couple, Roy and Sandy Okada, tied the knot last Sunday, August 7. They were married at their home in Sherman Oaks.



Sandy and Roy first met at a Valley Trailers class in 2013.

GETTING TO KNOW CLUB MEMBERS BETTER



Sandy DeBear

My two sisters and I, of which I am the poor, picked-on middle one, were born and raised in Los Angeles. After graduating from Fairfax High, we moved to the Valley where I have lived ever since. We were the typical family, taking dance lessons, piano lessons, etc. When I was around 13, my mother enrolled me in a drama school to help me get over my shyness when being asked to speak in front of a class. To make a long story short, I'll just say that that was the start of an acting career that lasted for many years. I started out doing many small theatre plays and

eventually got to where I had an acting agent. I did several TV shows, a couple of bits in movies, and did some TV commercials. At one point, I decided to take vocal lessons. My mom was a singer and except for my dad, the whole family was quite musical. After about a year of studying, I joined a musical comedy group with another gal, three guys, and me. We worked a couple of small clubs in town and then went on the road. After a couple of years, we broke up. (That's another story!) I then started singing with a band in a club here in the Valley (no longer around), where I eventually met my husband-to-be who also happened to be a singer and actor. After breaking up with my long-time boyfriend and falling in lust with my now ex, we put together a nightclub act and ended up touring with it. When we got tired of that, we came back and I continued with my acting while working part-time for a commercial production company that had just opened offices out here. It eventually grew to a full-time job as a commercial casting director. In the meantime, we got married and had two fabulous boys. After seven years, we divorced and I went back to work as a freelance director. I loved it, but after so many years, I got burned out and left "show biz." I went into sales and eventually retired from that.

To back track a little, when my boys were around nine

and eleven, they took up Karate lessons and after a while I started training with them. I continued up until 2000 when a friend invited me to a square dance class taught by Larry Ward with the Farmers and Charmers. Of course I loved it immediately, but it was being taught on the same evening as the Karate class, so I decided that 20 years of that was enough and I quit Karate and took up square dancing. I also went to a Valley Trailers' class taught by Mike Seastrom, and eventually decided to go with him alone. That was the beginning of my affiliation with the Valley Trailers. Now I square and round dance, belong to the Brandeis Group, a fundraising group for Brandeis University, and go to the theatre a lot. I'm a gym rat and enjoy my four beautiful grandkids. I also love to travel when I can. So that's me in a nutshell.



65TH NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION, DES MOINES, IOWA 2016



This year's national convention was in Des Moines, Iowa. Our Associated Square Dance High Flyers' group arrived a few days early (on the weekend before) to tour the hosting city. It was a really nice way to get to know our states of the union!

We spent four days touring Des Moines and nearby attractions. Some of these included:

- The Living Farm Museum in Urbandale, an interactive outdoor museum that educates and connects people of all ages to Midwestern rural life experiences.
- We dined at the Wallace House, a restored 1883 Italianate Victorian Mansion in Des Moines. It was the home of Henry Wallace, first editor of Wallace's Farmer magazine (1985) still in publication today.



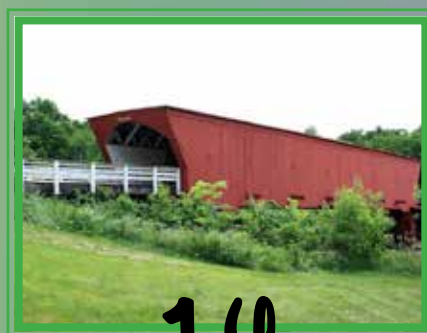
- John Deere Factory, which manufactures tractors, cotton pickers, and other farm equipment.



- The John Wayne birthplace and museum.



- The Bridges of Madison County (some are still standing!) We watched the movie on the way out there...remember Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep?



- Herbert Hoover Library & Museum, and birthplace
- The Amana Colonies (early settlements) of German Pietists who came to Iowa in 1855 to live out their beliefs in isolated surroundings.
- The Salisbury House, the Iowa Capital Building & Botanical Gardens (gorgeous).

Later on in the week, the convention dancing started. Over 4000 folks from all over the world and the US attended. The event was held in the large downtown Convention Center with many kinds of dancing at all levels (square, round, contra, line, clogging, etc.). There was something for everyone, including families and kids. There were also lectures, vendors, and other events for participants.

Some of us actually danced three times a day, morning, afternoon and evening...a great way to improve skills and meet new folks. Last year's convention was held in Springfield, Massachusetts, and next year's will be in Cincinnati, Ohio. Consider joining the High Flyers next year for a terrific tour, fabulous dancing with well known callers and cuers from all over the world, and a fun-filled opportunity to meet dancers from the US and world-wide!

Pam Bailis

COHEN'S CORNER



*Sue Cohen
Visitation Chair*

HAPPY SQUARES VISITATION JULY 9TH

Twenty-five Valley Trailers visited the Happy Squares in Simi Valley on July 9. Michael Kellogg called an upbeat dance and Cindy Mower cued an assortment of rounds, including many for her beginning class members. Michael



was full of energy--calling some fast, some slow, but all with much enthusiasm. A highlight was his a cappella



calling near the end of the evening. I had heard him call a duet a cappella with Don Schadt before, and this one was extra special too. He got quite a round of applause for it. He even got to dance some rounds with Judi. She enjoyed watching and participating in some squares as well. As Cindy pointed out, a nice crowd was still around at the end of the dance.



*Photos courtesy of
Sue Cohen*

VISITATION GOES HAWAIIAN

It was a hot Sunday afternoon when 16 Valley Trailers headed to Frazier Park to dance with the Mountain Squares at their Hawaiian themed dance. Ken Ritucci called a challenging dance and Jim Elder cued.



The Mountain Squares put out a great spread that included macadamia nuts and other Hawaiian appetizers. The homemade pineapple upside down cake was delicious. This dance was put on by only 13 Mountain Squares members!



Upon leaving the "breath of fresh air" up there, we drove south and had many views of the smoke from the Sand fire. At that time, the ramp to the 14 northbound freeway was closed. We were fortunate that none of our dancers had to return to the Antelope Valley that night.

**Sue Cohen,
Visitation Chair**

VISITATION AWARDS

Red Trailer	15 Marty Henriks
Silver Trailer	25 Doug Sobel
Red Car	35 Judith Arner
	Jeanette Williams

MORE OF ROY'S REVIEWS



Roy Okada

DOUBLE HEADER DANCE 7/23/16

Oh my gosh! What a day it was on Saturday, July 23rd, with the triple digit heat, the Santa Clarita fire, and the square dance doubleheader. The Buckles & Bows and the Boots & Slippers managed to survive the hot evening with both having a good turnout for their respective club dances.

The Buckles & Bows led off the evening at 5:30 pm with Andy Allemao and his Hex workshop. There were 72 dancers learning the intricacies of having six couples rather than the conventional four couples in a square. The calls are the same, only the positioning and direction are distinct. President Bill Armstrong did a masterful job in getting everyone up

and dancing at the workshop. The Buckles & Bows' refreshments are probably the best in the USA for club dances. For the price of admission, you are treated to a smorgasbord of finger food every month.

The Valley Trailers' August club dance is featuring Andy Allemao and his Hex workshop beginning at 6:30 pm. You must be on time, otherwise you will miss out as it is crucial in the beginning to learn the rules of Hex.



The Boots & Slippers dance began at 7 pm with Ken Ritucci doing the calling and Cindy Mower cueing. There were eight squares in attendance including 12 VT members. Would you believe that eight of them were dancing in the A-1 star tip? That's enough for one of the three squares that were up for the star tip, although not all eight were in the same square. Ken's patter material was excellent, both for Plus as well as for Advanced. At times squares were breaking down, but Ken repeated the sequences that some of the dancers weren't getting, and in the end, the success rate was high.

Both clubs' dances were very enjoyable for everyone present. The air conditioning was working well at both locations and it made for a very comfortable evening. It should be noted that both of these clubs were continuing the practice of split-the-pot.

JOLLY PIRATES DANCE

Farmers & Charmers president Teresa Spohr outdid herself at their August 6 Saturday night club dance, which was a recommended dance for the Valley Trailers. Her imaginative and decorative creations for the "Jolly Pirates" theme and the costumes worn by club members set the stage for an exciting evening. Scott Byars was the caller, and his performance was unlike any other square dance caller. One needs to experience his calling in person to fully appreciate his theatrics and choreography. There were 14 squares in attendance, which included 14 members of the Valley Trailers. Scot is from Sacramento, so it isn't often that we get to dance to him in our area. Those who were there on the sixth were very fortunate to have the opportunity to dance to his creative and unique choreography.

A conga line ended a fun-filled evening of dancing.

Roy Okada



Bob Mitchell, Editor

Editor Sez

I have heard and been involved in a few discussions over the past few months about the structure of our Tuesday night Plus class. There seems to be two sides to the matter, and some strongly held and conflicting opinions on both sides. Fortunately it seems to involve only a rather small part of the overall Club membership, which is some of those who come to the Tuesday night Plus class. And as always, I have an opinion on the topic, so will share it with you here this month. But before getting in to that, it will be helpful to define what the purpose of the class is.

The primary purpose of the class is to recruit, train, and develop new dancers who will ideally later become members of the Club. In fact, I might even go so far as to say that this is the sole ob-

jective of the class, and the fact that it is a useful opportunity for current members to hone their dancing skills is just a bonus. I have stated this as a fact, but I do recognize that even this could be open to debate, so for now, just accept it as my opinion.

It is always hoped that each year the rate at which new dancers join the Club will at least offset the normal attrition that inevitably occurs in organizations such as ours, and better yet even lead to growth in the Club membership. It is also an objective that these new dancers, and new members, will be reasonably competent Plus level dancers who can attend not only our dances but other clubs' dances as well, have an enjoyable time at it, and not leave frustrated and embarrassed. To help achieve this objective, our Plus class coordinators have developed a class structure where the students (new dancers) are assigned an angel to dance with them for a class night. We currently have four squares of new dancers, their angels, and a few other angels as necessary to fill out these squares at each class. The success rate for these squares in each tip is very high, and the process seems to be working out very nicely for the new dancers. The dissatisfaction seems to come from the fact that other dancers who are not in these pre-set squares, in some cases work-shoppers from other clubs, in other cases

some of our own members whose skills may have gotten rusty, and some Club members who apparently come just for an easy relaxed evening of dancing, have a much lower success rate in the tips. They quite understandably would like to have some of the stronger dancers in their squares to help with their success rate and are less than pleased with the current arrangement.

Now to my opinion on this: If you accept, as I do, that the purpose of the class is to develop new dancers and add new members to the club roster, then it seems that the current class structure is working very nicely. It is important that the students enjoy the learning process and make progress at a reasonable rate. Otherwise they will simply drop out, concluding that square dancing just wasn't for them. It is also useful to consider the challenges the class coordinators face in doing their job. Club members who are both capable and willing to serve as angels on a regular and consistent basis are not just beating the doors down on Tuesday nights. In fact there are regularly three or four women who are dancing the boy's part just to have sufficient angels to fill the four squares. So if someone approaches Joy and says he (or she) wants to be in an as-

**Continued on
Page 18**

**Continued from
Page 17**

Editor Sez

signed square, you can see the problem that poses for her unless she just happens to have an open spot and an available angel to assign. She surely isn't going to bump a new dancer to accommodate a member who has gotten rusty or just wants a relaxed evening of dancing, there aren't enough angels to make a fifth square, and at some point, just pairing up angels and students who will be there gets to be a large task, and it's an every week task.

So Club members, and especially men, if you want to make a contribution to your club, and if you're a reasonably strong Plus level dancer, volunteer your services to come to class and be an angel. Couples who meet this same criterion could also help with the success rate of the unassigned squares. So do think about it. A steady supply of new dancers and new members is essential to the viability of any square dance club.

Quite a bit of what you have read here is opinion on my part, and I recognize that others may have an opinion different from mine, so if you would like to express a different opinion, send me some text and if I don't get too many, I'll print them here.

October 2

**Benefit Dance for
Special Olympics &
Programs for the
Intellectually Im-
paired**

Caller: Don Schadt

Cuer: Jim Elder

6:00 - 10:00 pm

\$10 per person

KOC Hall

21433 Strathern St.

Canoga Park

After party in the bar.

**Mid-Cal Classic
Plus - A2 Labor Day
Weekend**

**September 2, 3, 4
Dancing through Sunday
night till 10:00 pm**

Callers:

Bob Baier

Jet Roberts

Los Baños - wood floor

Info - Harlan Bowen

707-489-6819



A BIT OF WISDOM



Joyce Stillwell

Dancers who fail to venture outside their own club miss the opportunity to make new friends and see what's happening in the larger world of square dancing. Visiting other clubs and attending classes and workshops are good ways to broaden one's horizons. By and large, square dancers are wonderful people and it's nice to become acquainted with those from other areas. Go visit a club you're unfamiliar with or take additional instruction. The payoff is definitely worth the effort!

Joyce Stillwell



PLUS COORDINATORS' MESSAGE



The countdown is here; there are only two more weeks of class before graduation on September 6th. Everyone is invited to share in the festivities. We hope you will join us on Tuesday the 6th from 7-9:45 PM at the Wilkinson Center. Don Schadt will be calling alternating tips of Mainstream and Plus.

We are delighted that so many of our students will be graduating and hope they will choose to become Valley Trailers members. All of the graduates have shown that they not only have learned all the Plus calls but also are able to dance them well at a Valley Trailers' Saturday dance. That is no small accomplishment! Those who have decided to take the class again will benefit from reviewing the calls and becoming more confident in their skills. We look forward to working with them in the next session.

The success of our Plus class

comes from a combination of several things; Don Schadt's superior teaching, the students' excellent attendance and attentiveness to Don's teaching, and the devotion of many angels who come each week to mentor our students. I know you've heard me say this before, but truly this combination is incredible! We all want the best of members in our Club and that begins with our graduates first becoming confident dancers. That is our goal and our passion; we are indebted to each of you who faithfully invest in growing our Club with us.

Graduation is an exciting time but remember it is only the beginning of square dance fun. Join our members and guests each 3rd Saturday here at Wilkinson from 8-10:30 PM with alternating Mainstream and Plus tips and rounds from 7:15-8 and between tips. There are many local square dance clubs that also offer wonderful dances for you to attend. Our Tidbits editors, Bob and Dolva Mitchell, let us know each month in the Tidbits where we can go to dance. As a Valley Trailers member or class member, you will receive an email with all the news worth reading in their excellent Tidbits issues.

The clothing sale is coming August 30th at Wilkinson beginning at 6PM. We are fortunate as a club to have Renee Krall who works tirelessly to make this periodic event something not to

be missed. Renee lovingly repairs any imperfections, washes, and irons each garment before bringing it to the sale. Don't miss this opportunity to add to your square dance outfit collection. You'll find a great selection of both men's and women's clothing at bargain prices!

It isn't too early to mark your calendar for the annual Riverside County Square and Round Dance Festival coming November 10, 11, 12, & 13 at the National Date Festival Fairgrounds in Indio, CA. Unfortunately, there is no Mainstream only dancing, but there is plenty of Plus and Advanced dancing as well as round dancing. Fiestas are an excellent time to get lots of floor time and make new friends who share your love of square dancing. There are reasonable RV sites, free parking, and affordable hotel room rates nearby. The callers are exceptional; Buddy Weaver, Ken Bower, Wade Driver, Tony Oxendine, Johnny Preston, Gary Shoemaker, and Mike Sikorsky. We promise you won't be disappointed. If you are even the tiniest bit interested, talk with us for details of one of our favorite festivals.

Remember to tell your friends and neighbors about our upcoming classes beginning September 13th at 7PM for beginning and at 8:30 PM for Plus. The first night's class is free for new students, so what have you got to lose?

LOCAL CLUB DANCES

BOOTS & SLIPPERS
09/24 DALE HOPPERS
10/22 ANDY ALLEMAO
11/20 HUNTER KELLER

P

BUCKLES & BOWS
09/24 ROD SHUPING
10/22 HUNTER KELLER
11/20 MIKE SIKORSKY

P

FARMERS & CHARMERS
LADS 'N' LASSIES
09/03 DICK HODNEFIELD
10/11 MIKE SEASTROM
11/20 HUNTER KELLER

P

HAPPY SQUARES
09/10 BRONC WISE
10/08 CHARLIE ROBERTSON
11/12 DARK

P

SIERRA HILLBILLIES
09/18 PAUL WATERS,
HUNTER KELLER
10/02 ROD SHUPING
11/06 ANDY ALLEMAO

MP

TRAIL DUSTERS
09/10 BUDDY WEAVER
10/08 MICHAEL KELLOGG
11/12 VIC CEDER

P

WESTERN WEAVERS
09/09 KEN RIUCCI
09/23 DICK HODNEFIELD
10/14 MIKE HOGAN
10/18 VIC KAARIA
11/11 DARK
11/15 DARK

P

MOUNTAIN SQUARES
SEPTEMBER - DARK
10/09 MIKE SIKORSKY

P

OFFICIAL VISITATION

VT club members - Don't forget to

wear club **colors**

LABOR DAY JAMBOREE

Date: Saturday, September 3
Level: Plus thru A2
Caller: Charlie Robertson, Dan Clairmont,
Don Wood, Romney Tannehill
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Workshops
8:00 pm - 10:00 Dance
Location: Arcadia

RECOMMENDED DANCES

Date: September 10
Club: Happy Squares
Caller: Bronc Wise

Date: September 11
Club: American Cancer Society - Wilkinson
Callers: Pat Carnathan, Buddy Weaver,
Hunter Keller, Mike Seastrom, Ken Bower

Date: September 18
Club: Sierra Hillbillies 49th Anniversary
Caller: Hunter Keller & Paul Waters

M - Mainstream

P - Plus



Looking for a dance?
Look at "wheresthedance.com."

ADVANCED DANCING

Valley Trailers

A1 & A2

8:00 - 10:30 PM

October 29

Caller:

David Mee

Wilkinson Senior
Center
Northridge

Phantom Squares

A2 7:45 PM

September 8

Vic Ceder

October 7

Bronc Wise

November 11

TBA

Canoga Park
Women's Club

Weaver Believers

4th Friday - **A2**

September 23

October 28

November 25

8:00 PM - 10:30 PM

Canoga Park

Women's Club

Caller - Buddy Weaver

Mountain Squares

Presents

A2 & C1

October 8th

**Caller: Mike
Sikorsky**

Frazier Park Community Center
info: Cindy Bell 661-607-8282



September 25

October 23

November 27

Day of A

with Ken Ritucci

A1 10:30 - 1:00 PM

A2 2:00 - 4:30 PM

Cedarbrook Dance Center

Info - Ken Ritucci

413-262-1875

November Shuffle

A-2/C-1 Weekend

November 18 - 20

Callers; Romney

Tannehill

& Bill Haynes

Info: Beverly Tomkins

909-261-4890

Trailblazers

1st Saturday

C1 11:00 AM -

1:30 PM

A2 3:00 - 5:30 PM

September 3

Barry Clasper

October 1

Darryl Lipscomb

November 5

Sandie Bryant

5946 Westminster Blvd.

Info: John Melstrom

714-968-3888

Fall Frolic

A2 Dancing

November 25, 26, 27

Caller:

Johnny Preston

Casa De Fruta, Hollister

Info: Harlan Bowen

707-489-6819

Romney's Stars

A-2/C-1 Weekend

October 7 - 9

Caller: Romney Tannehill

Info: Beverly Tomkins

909-261-4890

ROUND DANCE CLASSES

Cam-A-Lots

New Beginning Round
Dance Class

Sept. 7 7:30 pm

Monday Class

Phase 4 & 5

7:30 - 9:15 pm

Wednesday Class

Phase 3 & 4

7:30 - 9:15 pm

Tuesday

Intermediate Class

August 23

7:30 - 9:15 pm

Sunday

Round Dance Parties

1:30 - 4:45 pm

Phase 2 thru 5

Program & Request
Rounds

Instructor:

Gus & Lynn

DeFore

Somis Clubhouse

Info (805) 482-0882

Round Dancing Classes

Tuesday

Advanced

Phases 5 & 6

Wednesday

Intermediate

Phases 3 & 4

Thursday

Beginner

Level at Phase 3

All Classes go from

7:00 to 9:30 pm

Instructors:

Milo & Cinda

Molitoris

Info 818-263-9158

Valley Israel Temple

13060 Roscoe Blvd.



Beginning Round

Dance Class

Sept 24

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Transition

ROUND DANCE

CLASS

Phase 2 to 3

Intermediate

Round Dance

Class (on going)

Phase 3 & 4

Thurs. 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Dance Party

New Location

Oct 2, Dec 4

Phase 2 - 4

1:30 2:00 pm Requests

2 - 4:30 pm Programmed

DARK

Sept 4 & Nov 6


Wilkinson Center

Instructor:

Cindy Mower

Info. 919 705-5996

SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 ROUND DANCE CLASS	2	3 FARMERS & CHARMERS LADS 'N' LASSIES CALLER: DICK HODNEFIELD
4	5	6 GRADUATION SQUARE DANCE CLASS	7 BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM DON & RENEE KRALL'S HOUSE	8 ROUND DANCE CLASS	9 WESTERN WEAVERS CALLER: KEN RITUCCI	10 HAPPY SQUARES CALLER: BRONC WISE TRAIL DUSTERS CALLER: MICHAEL KELLOGG
11	12	13 NEW SQUARE DANCE CLASS BEGINS	14	15 ROUND DANCE CLASS	16	17  VALLEY TRAILERS CALLER: MIKE SIKORSKY
18 49TH ANNIVERSARY SIERRA HILLBILLIES CALLERS: PAUL WATERS HUNTER KELLER	19	20 SQUARE DANCE CLASS	21	22 ROUND DANCE CLASS	23 WESTERN WEAVERS CALLER: DICK HODNEFIELD	24 BOOTS & SLIPPERS CALLER: DALE HOPPERS BUCKLES & BOWS CALLER: ROD SHUPING
25	26	27 SQUARE DANCE CLASS	28	29 ROUND DANCE CLASS	30	

VALLEY TRAILERS CALLER SCHEDULE

DATE	THEME	CALLER
09/17/16		MIKE SIKORSKY
10/15/16	MONSTER MASH	DAVID MEE
10/29/16	HALLOWEEN HAUNT A1 & A2	DAVID MEE
11/19/16	62ND ANNIVERSARY DANCE	MIKE SEASTROM CHARLIE ROBERTSON
12/17/16		HUNTER KELLER
01/21/16		RICK HAMPTON
02/18/17		JOHNNY PRESTON



Web: valleytrailers.org

Phone: (818) 360-8750

Email: VTsdClub@gmail.com

