

Tidbits

Valley Trailers Square Dance Club

Editor
Bob Mitchell

Presidents' Message



The Sweethearts Ball is just around the corner on February 12, sponsored by A Square D. Our Club Sweethearts, Nick and Gail Koulax, welcome you to come and listen to Mike Seastrom and Hunter Keller calling a great dance, so come and have a good time. If you are going to attend, we recommend that you plan to do car pools because it's in Hawthorne. We will be taking our motor home and have room for eight people, so call us at 818 (360-



8750) if you would like a ride. We will be going out to dinner after the dance at some place back in the Valley.

It's hard to believe that our club year is half over already. Soon there will be Club members coming around and speaking to everyone that they feel would be an asset to the next board. Think long and hard when someone asks you to be on the next board because this is how we can keep our Club the best there is. Remember the people make the Club, the Club does not make the Club. Hope to see you in a square real soon and yellow rocks to all.

**Don and Renee,
Presidents**

Board Meeting

Feb 1, 7:30 pm
Rob & Joy Starks'
home.

**All VT members
are welcome.**

February 2017



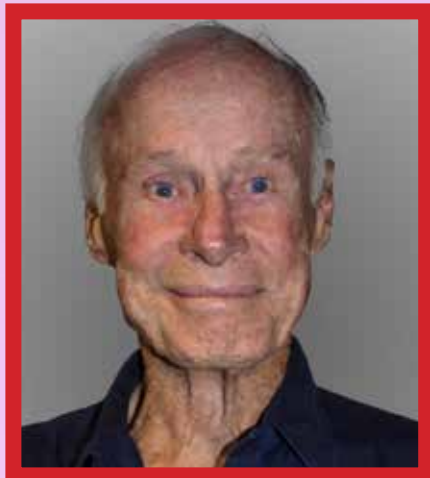
Spring Picnic

Time is fast approaching for our Spring Picnic on Saturday, March 25th, at Valencia Travel Village on Highway 126. We will have the bean bag toss in the morning and dog races in the afternoon, and then topping it all off in the evening with our famous potluck dinner that is die for. No one has ever gone home hungry. If you have an RV, travel trailer, or tent trailer, we will have space for you on March 23, 24, and 25 if you would like to spend a few days. Please sign up at class or at the dances. Hope to see you there.

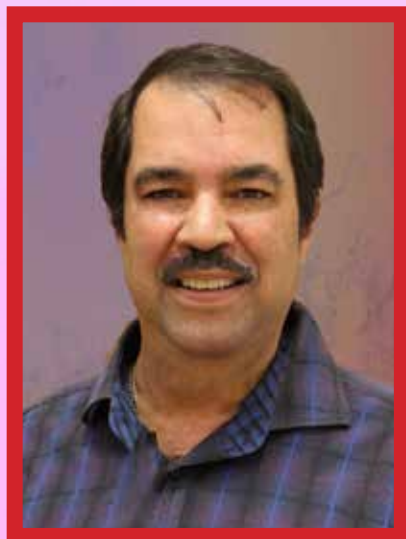
**Don Krall,
Wagon Master**

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Caller Coordinator



For the month of February, Johnny Preston will be calling for the Valley Trailers. Johnny has been a long time favorite of our club, and is known internationally for his enthusiastic style along with his wonderful singing voice. Johnny has called in almost all of the European countries as well as in Japan and Saudi Arabia.



Johnny Preston, Caller

Born in California, Johnny for years has split his activities between Alabama in the summer and California in the

winter, and for as many years has been a big time caller at the Indio festival, also known as RIVCO, every October. A very talented fella is Johnny, and he loves it when you show your appreciation of his crowd pleasing calling, so be ready to put your hands together to let him know you're out there waiting for his next call.

Here comes JOHNNY on the 21st; I'll be looking for YOU!

Bob Davis

*If your mind
goes blank,
don't forget to
turn off the
sound.*



Club Member Drawing

The name drawn in the Club Member drawing at our December dance was that of Irene Allen, but she wasn't there, and so missed out on the \$30 prize, which now goes to \$40 for the January dance. That would be a nice way to start off the new year, so you really should plan to be there.



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Roy's Reviews



Roy Okada **Our December Dance**

"Yellow Rock" and "Stack the Wood" were very much on display at the Valley Trailers' December club dance at the Wilkinson Senior Center. There were 16 squares present celebrating the joyous start of the Yuletide season. Hunter Keller's tips incorporated many of the songs and carols that accentuate the emotions of the square dancers for this special time of the year.

There were 44 Valley Trailers members who made their appearance along with 25 Boots & Slippers members on their official club visitation. On the humorous side, in light of the recent Presidential election, the Buckles & Bows asked for a recount when their number of attendees was announced by Sue Cohen. Apologies were soon given when the recount showed there were quite a few more of the Buckles & Bows members present.

It is becoming obvious that the VT club dances are attracting advanced dancers as evidenced by the six squares up for the A-1 tip. In addition, Cindy Mower continues to draw a large entourage of round dancers.

Along with the rejoicing of the holidays, there are melancholy moments that each of us experiences. Hunter Keller announced that he is headed back to Montana to take care of his mother since his father passed away in December. His return to California is in question, although he said that he will honor all commitments he has on his books for 2017.

The spirit of Christmas was best captured as the dancers provided the pseudo Mormon Choir sing-a-long back-up to Hunter. When it appears everything else in the world is going wrong, square dancing and spiritual belief are the best antidotes to make it right.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Roy Okada





**Valley Trailers
Club Dance
December 17, 2016
Caller:
Hunter Keller**



Vice Presidents' Notes



Rob & Joy Starks

We danced 2016 away with Hunter Keller calling our December dance. We have a really fun evening coming up on January 21st with our traditional Black Light dance. Be sure to wear fluorescent colors and white cotton dance clothes. The more cotton in the fabric, the more your clothing will glow in the dark. Everyone is given white cotton gloves at the door. There will be about three tips during the evening where all the lights will be turned down, leaving only our hands and clothing to glow in the black lights. It's exciting to see all the dancers with bright white hands and outfits. The fun begins at 7:15 PM with rounds cued by Cindy Mower and squares called by Rick Hampton beginning at 8 PM. Rod and Candice Belcher have volunteered to do refreshments for the dance.

February is the academy awards month and the Valley Trailers' tribute to Hollywood's Oscar night. Come dressed as your favorite award winning actor or actress. Invite your friends to join us and come to our extravaganza dance. A prize valued at \$30.00 will be given away to one lucky movie star. We are fortunate to have a shining star in his own right, Johnny "Oscar" Preston, who will be calling, and our own Cindy Mower will be cueing for us. Come walk the red carpet and find your own star on the Valley Trailers' walk of fame! Ready, set, action: February 18th, rounds at 7:15pm, squares at 8pm. We'll see you there.

**Rob & Joy Starks,
Vice Presidents**



**My goal for 2016
was to lose 10
pounds.
I've only got 15
more to go!**



Roy's Reviews



Roy Okada

New Year's Celebration

To the refrains of "Auld Lang Syne," die-hard square dancers welcomed 2017 at the Boots & Slippers' New Year's annual celebration. Sadly, and perhaps it is a sign of the times for square dancing in general, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of attendees for this year's event. There was a trio of callers, Dick Hodnefield, Dan Clairmont, and Rod Shuping, who provided four hours of fun and enjoyable dancing in two halls. Zena Beaulieu did the rounds between tips.

The Mainstream hall provided an excellent venue for the new students to be introduced to big time square dancing. Dan Clairmont's awareness of the dancers' abilities allowed him the op-

portunity to go over missed calls and make the evening a memorable dance to remember for the new students.

Dancing in the Mainstream hall was the Jackie and Marc Zev family and their teenage friends. Along with John and Sybil Duhig's beautiful grand-daughter Daniella, they represent the hope and future of square dancing.

An amusing anecdote for the evening was when it was brought to everyone's attention that all three callers' wives' first name was Gail or a close derivative. From there the joyous moment had arrived and Yellow Rocks was the call of the new year. Happy New Year and the best square dancing to come in 2017. May all your dreams come true!

Roy Okada

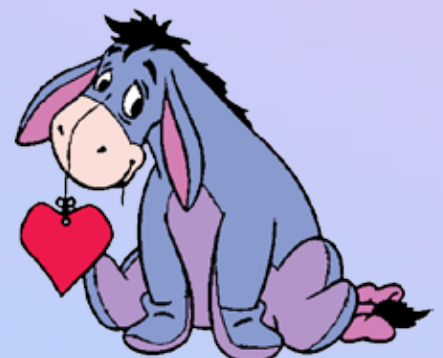
February Visitation

The Farmers & Charmers were among the first clubs of ASqD to begin the 2017 square dancing schedule. One would assume that with Johnny Preston doing the calling, the Farmers & Charmers would have a great turnout. Wistfully, there were barely seven squares dancing at the Wilkinson Senior Center. At first glance, the ominous trend does not bode well when you consider what happened at the Boots & Slippers' New Year's Eve

dance. The obvious question for many of the attendees at these initial square dance events would be why there were fewer dancers this year as compared to last year.

On the plus side, the Farmers & Charmers had their usual fantastic theme decorations and an abundant buffet of refreshments. President Teresa Spohr continues her unyielding quest for perfection at their monthly club dances. You have to be there to really appreciate her creations.

Roy Okada



Kitchen Patrol

Please be there by 7:00 pm.
It is your responsibility to find
a replacement or switch with
someone if you are unable to
help. Also advise Mary Beatty
and Anita Sheidenberger.

2/18/17

Dottie Carlisle
Sue Cohen
Ed Palmer
Hiroko Pipes

3/24/17 (Friday)

Mary Beatty
Tom Beatty
John Hyde
Nancy Hyde

4/15/17

Toba Burg
Kay Goeden
Hal Gould
Evan Ball

Host/Hostess

Please be there by 7:00 pm.
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.

2/18/17

Irene Allen
David Brown
Vangie Freeman
Tom Nelson

3/24/17 (Friday)

Irene Narita
Richard Narita
Barbara Weintraub
Larry Weintraub

4/15/17

Yolie Alvarado
Birdie Brown
Doug Sobel
Tova Sobel

4/29/17 (Advanced)

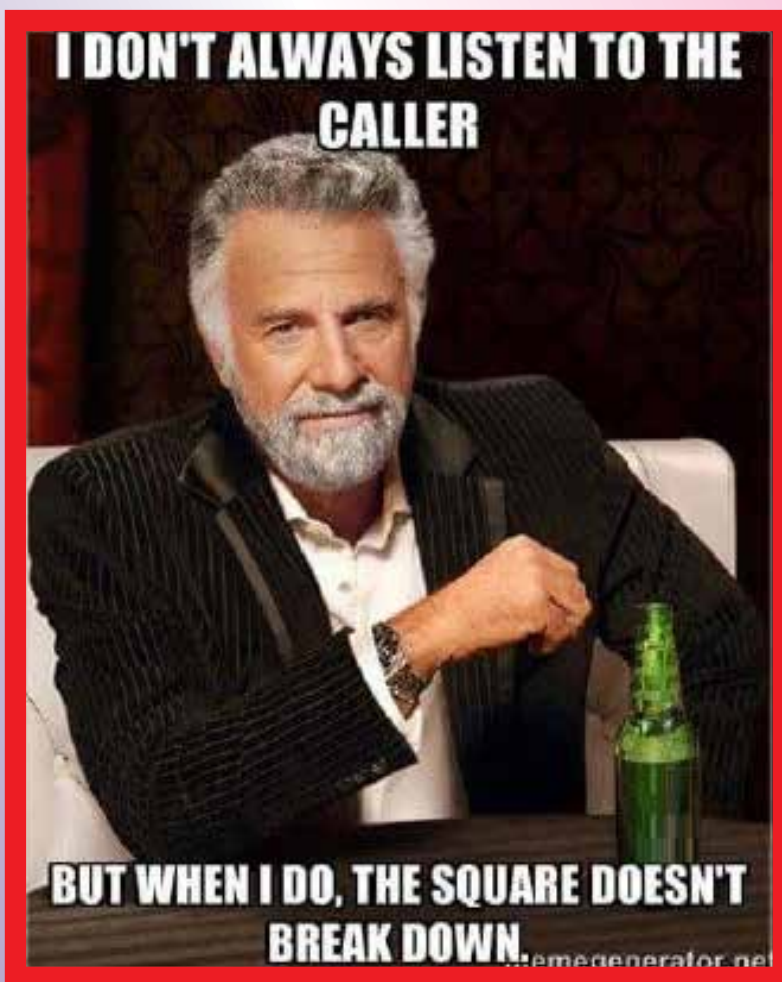
Linda Kaplan
Paul Libis



None this month.



2/3	Karen Strauss
2/4	Norm Hirsch
2/4	John Sheidenberger
2/8	Bob Davis
2/9	Linda Kaplan
2/10	Kristy Schadt
2/16	Paul Panetta Jr.
2/18	Sherril Ptashne
2/24	Robert Sterndale
2/27	Bob Mitchell



Courtesy of Trailblazers' Newsletter Editors

Roy's Reviews

Honoring two Presidents

On February 23rd, the U.S.A. will honor its past and present Presidents for their contributions to making America the greatest country in the world. Similarly, the Valley Trailers would like to acknowledge two remarkable individuals whose leadership as club presidents embodies the spirit of square dancing.

Year after year, presidents Don Krall of the Valley Trailers and Bill Armstrong of the Buckles & Bows have devoted their labor of love to perpetuate their respective square dance clubs' success. What separates these two men from other club presidents is the extent to which they go beyond the established duties and protocols.

One of the many examples of this was when Bill attended a funeral service for a member of the Buckles & Bows. What makes it so special was the scenario of this member. He and his wife had just become members in 2016. They lived in Manhattan Beach and



*Presidents Bill Armstrong
& Don Krall*

traveled to Thousand Oaks for every club event. Even though he was a new member, Bill believes any member is family and must be accorded the same respect. His widow went to Rivco with the club and Bill made sure that she always had a dance partner. Bill's sincerity is among his greatest qualities.

Don Krall does many things for the Valley Trailers Club, but it is his chivalrous practice of dancing with the VT women who have no dance partners that makes Don the best president the VT club has had in its 62 years of existence.

On Presidents' Day, give thanks to Don and Bill: they deserve the accolades.

Roy Okada





Bob Mitchell, Editor

Editor Sez

When we first started dancing, I didn't pay much attention to the star tips; they were just a time to take a break and visit while the majority of the dancers were not out on the floor. But after a while, the challenge of Plus level dancing started to fade and we began looking into Advanced dancing, and now that we have developed some modicum of proficiency there and participate in the star tips, I pay more attention. It seems that there have been some changes in these tips over the past year or so, not necessarily good or bad, just changes. For one thing, there seem to be more dancers participating in the star tips. I seem to remember there being only three or four squares up for them, and often they were scrambling to get enough for a fourth square and not always succeeding. But at our November anniversary dance, there

were seven squares, and at the December dance, there were six. Of course the November dance was a special one since it was our anniversary dance with two popular callers, but it still was drawing mostly from the same local population of dancers. If the number of people doing Advanced dancing is on the increase, that can only be considered to be a good thing for the activity.

Another change I have noticed is that the level of the material being called in these tips seems to be on the decline. Of course part of this may be due to the fact that my perspective is changing as we get more experienced with it, but I'm certain that that isn't all of it. Another factor that may be in play here is that with the increased number of people getting up for these tips, the average level of dancing ability may be declining if the increase in numbers is coming from newer dancers at the level. At our December dance, it seemed that of the six squares dancing, only two of them were doing reasonably well, while the others were breaking down quite a bit, and this in spite of the fact that the level of the material seemed to be unusually easy. Of course there is surely a correlation here between how well the dancers are doing and the level of the material being called. Most callers will bring the level down if they see that much of the floor is having trouble, and this may

be a reasonable thing to do, but there is a limit. My recollection of the December star tip is that it was mostly just a typical Plus tip with a few A1 calls mixed in.

Now just to be clear about this, I am not claiming to have identified a problem here, not even a small one. One tip once a month that is going more or less OK now certainly can't be a cause for concern, but if we can make it a little better simply by making a few adjustments, then that must be the right thing to do. My suggestion is that an appropriate person in the Club, probably the president or the caller coordinator who is already in communication with the caller, tell the caller to maintain the level of the material at what was advertised, A1 in the case of our Club, independent of how well the floor is doing. This means that the entire list of A1 calls is fair game, as well as A1 concepts and positioning. Then, if squares are having problems, the caller can take the squares to lines more often than he otherwise might, and the squares that have broken down and presumably have formed lines can resume dancing with essentially no impact on the others. This way the dancers who are able to handle the material can have a fun and more interesting tip, and those who

**Continued
Middle of
Page 10**



Cohen's Corner



Sue Cohen

Message From The Visitation Chair

At our Tuesday night class, Sherril and Mylta, our merchandising leads, have had our Club jackets and polo shirts on display. I have wanted one of the white polo shirts with our insignia on it since I joined the Club in 2010, but this is the first opportunity I've had to purchase one.

This year our March visitation will be to the Bakersfield Fiesta on March 17-19. Please plan to attend the Festival and purchase a polo shirt so we will have a large showing

at the daytime events on Saturday. Of course we'll wear our new Club outfits on Saturday night.

Hope to see you there. Let's make this our biggest Valley Trailers presence in years.

**Sue Cohen,
Visitation Chair**



Editor Sez

**Continued from
Page 9**

aren't doing so well still will likely get to dance as much as they did when they were breaking down before but with fewer restart opportunities. At Advanced, and I expect this is true at club level dancing as well, the better callers will only take squares to lines if one or more squares have broken down, so the more experienced dancers will recognize what the caller is doing with this approach, but within reason none of them will object to going to lines several times during the course of a tip. If there are people getting up for the A1 tip who simply can't dance the level, then it doesn't seem fair to penalize the others with a low level tip, especially when some

of them may have come because a star tip had been advertised.

I don't recommend this approach for the Mainstream and Plus tips because there the dancers should expect to have a fun, relaxed evening and to be able to do almost everything without problems, but the whole point of dancing at the Advanced level is to be challenged and not get everything. If our Club could develop a reputation for putting on a good, solid star tip, that might well be what it would take to persuade those who might otherwise have been on the fence about going dancing on a Saturday night to come out and join us.

The topic of widely varying dancing abilities among the participants in star tips could easily lead to a discussion about the appropriateness of setting up squares in advance for these tips, but I will leave that as a potential topic for another month.

Bob Mitchell



Plus Coordinators' Message



Joy & Rob Starks

All the Valley Trailers class members and angels were happy to see our instructor, Don Schadt, return to teaching on Tuesday nights. Thank you, Charlie Robertson, for stepping in and doing a great job. Our class never skipped a beat. February is the last month of teaching for this session, and Don has only a handful of calls left to cover before graduation on March 7th. Our new Plus class will begin the following week on March 14th. Rob and I are proud of each of our students. Those who are taking the class for the first time have done amazingly well. I hope each of you will take the time to thank the faithful angels who have been here for you week after week; they are a valuable part of your success.

We want to remind all of the Mainstream students that

Ethel and Danny think are ready to advance to Plus that Rob and I need to see you dance at a VT Club level dance. The Valley Trailers' club dances have alternating Mainstream and Plus tips. All students wanting to move up to Plus level must first dance with us at Mainstream level. Though we certainly do not expect you to be perfect, we need to see that you are able to dance a tip without breaking the square down. We will set up a square with some familiar Valley Trailer members and give you a chance to exhibit your Mainstream dancing skills. As coordinators, we want you to succeed; we will be talking with each of you in the weeks ahead about your progress. We realize it may be difficult for you if we feel you need to take the class again and not move up this time. Please believe me when I say we would not be doing our job nor helping you become a confident dancer by moving you to a higher level before you are ready. The majority of new dancers will improve best by choosing to take each series at least one more time. There is no shame in honing your skills before trying to dance at a higher level.

There are some great opportunities coming up to get some floor time with the new skills you have learned. First is the Valley Trailers' Black Light Dance January 21st with Rick Hampton calling. As usual, we will have alternating Mainstream and Plus

tips with rounds beginning at 7:15 pm and squares beginning at 8 pm. One of the most fun dances of the year is the Student Stomp on Sunday, January 29th, here at the Wilkinson Center from 2:30-5 pm. The dance hall is always packed with more than 25 squares and six great callers. All students will be able to participate since no calls will be used unless they have been taught in every beginning class. This is the perfect time to take the plunge and try out your skills at a real dance. You'll be glad you came! Another wonderful opportunity to practice your dancing is the class level dances the Happy Squares have on the third Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm at the Simi Valley Senior Center in Simi Valley. Boots and Slippers also have class level dances the 1st Saturday night of every month from 7:30-10:00 pm at the Simi Valley Senior Center.

Please plan on joining us for the Valley Trailers' upcoming theme dance, Oscar Night, on February 18th with an outstanding caller, Johnny Preston. Be sure to dress as your favorite actor or actress. A prize valued at \$30.00 will be awarded to one lucky movie star. Rounds begin at 7 pm and squares begin at 8 pm at the Wilkinson Senior Center. Come walk the red carpet and find your own star on the Valley Trailers' Walk of Fame!

Joy & Rob Starks,
Plus Coordinators



Mainstream Coordinators' Message



*Ethel & Danny Ball,
Mainstream Coordinators*

Our Mainstream class students are doing a great job and are continuing to learn the Mainstream calls. We are now more than half way through with the class, so our students are encouraged to start attending dances that are specifically designed for Mainstream students. Several of the dances coming up will say "halfway dance", so look for these flyers. Also, some Mainstream students may need partners, so if you are a continuing student in the Plus Class, or a member of Valley Trailers, please don't hesitate to invite some of our new students to a dance.

We are very pleased that Don Schadt has returned from his medical leave of absence and has resumed teaching on Tuesday nights. We know that all of the students have missed him and we are happy that he is feel-

ing better and is back at the helm! We'd like to thank John Hyde and Charlie Robertson once again for filling in for Don during his absence. We also want to thank Tom Beatty for helping our students before the class begins every Tuesday. We know that his efforts are making a difference and that the students appreciate this additional help. If you have not yet tried it out, please come at 6:30 pm and get a little review of the new calls with Tom every Tuesday before class begins at 7 pm. As always, we want to thank our angels for coming every week to help our new students learn the Mainstream level.

See you next Tuesday! Happy Valentine's Day!

**Ethel & Danny Ball
Mainstream
Coordinators**



I AM A SEENAGER. SENIOR TEENAGER

**I HAVE EVERYTHING THAT I WANTED AS A TEENAGER,
ONLY 60 YEARS LATER.**

I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL OR WORK.

I GET AN ALLOWANCE EVERY MONTH.

I HAVE MY OWN PAD.

I DON'T HAVE A CURFEW.

I HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE AND MY OWN CAR.

**THE PEOPLE I HANG AROUND WITH ARE NOT SCARED OF
GETTING PREGNANT**

AND THEY DO NOT USE DRUGS.

AND I DON'T HAVE ACNE.

LIFE IS GREAT.!!

12

Local Club Dances

Boots & Slippers
Dance Schedule was
unavailable at time
of publication.

P

Buckles & Bows

02/25 David Mee
03/25 Jerry Junck
04/22 Ken Bower

P

Farmers & Charmers Lads 'N' Lassies

02/04 Mike Haworth
03/04 ??
04/01 Andy Allemao

Happy Squares

MP

01/14 Hunter Keller
02/11 Rick Hampton
03/11 Rod Shuping

Sierra Hillbillies

02/05 Frank Lescrinier
03/05 Dale Hoppers
04/02 Bill "Tex" Gipson

P

Trail Dusters

01/14 Arlen Miller
02/11 Johnny Preston
03/11 Dick Hodnefield

P

Western Weavers

02/10 Andy Allemao
02/24 Dennis Young
03/10 Rod Shuping
03/24 Don Schadt

P

Official Visitation

VT club members - Don't forget to
wear club colors

Date: February 12
Club: A Square D
Level: Plus
Caller: Mike Seastrom & Hunter Keller
Theme: Sweethearts Ball
Time: 1:30 to 4:30 PM
Location: Hawthorne Memorial Center
3901 Hawthorne Blvd.
Hawthorne

Recommended Dance

Date: February 4
Club: Lads & Lassies
Level: Plus
Caller: Mike Haworth
Theme: Love, Hugs, and Flowers
Time: Rounds 7:30, Squares 8:00
Location: Wilkinson Senior Center

**Looking for a dance?
Go to "wherethedance.com".**



Wing Ding

March 3, 4, 5

3 Callers:

Bronc Wise, Bob Baier,

Jet Roberts

Mainstream thru A2

Merced County Fairgrounds

Info: 209-996-0844

57th California Square Dance Convention

April 7 - 9

4 Callers:

Bronc Wise,

Mike Seastrom,

Jay Henderson,

Dee Dee Dougherty

Mainstream thru C-1

Victorville

Fairgrounds

Info: Gilbert/Sharon

Leon

egleon@msn.com

Bakersfield Fiesta

March 17, 18, 19

5 Callers

Bob Baier, Darryl Lipscomb,

Vic Ceder, Jet & Sylvia Roberts

Mainstream thru C1

Contact: 661-399-3658

Swing Thru the

Palms #8

Feb. 3, 4, 5

Callers:

Romney Tannehill,

Charlie Robertson,

Andy Allemao

MS thru C1

Palm Springs

Desert Stomp

March 26, 27, 28, 29

Callers: Ken Bower,

Jerry Gilbreath, Gary Shoemake,

Buddy Weaver

Laughlin

For Info: 760-200-1031

Advanced Dances

Valley Trailers

A1 & A2

8:00 - 10:30 PM

April 29

Caller:

Dan Preedy

Wilkinson Senior
Center,
Northridge

Phantom Squares

A2 7:45 PM

February 10

TBA

March 10

Sandie Bryant

April 7

Kris Jensen

Canoga Park

Women's Club

Weaver Believers

4th Friday - **A2**

February 24

March 24

April 28

8:00 PM - 10:30 PM

Canoga Park

Women's Club

Caller - Buddy Weaver

Los Baños Delight

March 10, 11, 12

Callers: Jet Roberts

& Jerry Story

A-2 C-1

For Info Call

Harlan: 707-489-
6819



Amador Adventure

April 28, 29, 30

Callers: Jet Roberts

& Joe Saltel

A-2 - C1

Plymouth, CA

Info: Harlan Bowen

707 489-6819

Cayucos Capers

Aug 4, 5, 6

A2

Callers: Joe Saltel,

Jet Roberts

Info: 707-489-6819

Trailblazers

1st Saturday

C1 11:00 AM -

1:30 PM

A2 3:00 - 5:30 PM

February 4

Anne Uebelacker

March 4

Ben Rubright

April 1

Rob French

5946 Westminster Blvd.

Info: John Melstrom

714-968-3888

Memorial Day Weekend

May 26, 27, 28

Caller:

Romney Tannehill

A2 w/C1

Hemet

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Official Visitation Sweetheart Ball February 12 ASquare D Callers: Mike Seastrom & Hunter Keller 1:30 to 4:30 pm Hawthorne Memorial Center		1 Board Meeting 7:30 pm Rob & Joy Starks' Home Members Welcome	2 Round Dance Class	3	4 Farmers & Charners Lads 'N' Lassies Caller: Mike Haworth
5 Sierra Hillbillies Caller: Frank Lescrinier	6	7 Square Dance Class	8	9 Round Dance Class	10 Western Weavers Caller: Andy Allemao	11 Happy Squares Caller: Hunter Keller Trail Dusters Caller: Arlen Miller
12 Sweethearts Ball Callers: Mike Seastrom & Hunter Keller	13	14  Square Dance Class	15	16 Round Dance Class	17	18 VT Valley Trailers Caller: Johnny Preston
19	20	21 Square Dance Class	22	23 Round Dance Class	24 Western Weavers Caller: Dennis Young	25 Buckles & Bows Caller: David Mee Boots & Slippers Caller: TBA
26	27	28 Square Dance Class		Recommended Dance February 4 Lads 'n' Lassies Caller: Mike Haworth 8:00 pm at Wilkinson		

Valley Trailers' Caller Schedule

Date	Theme	Caller
2/18/17	Academy Awards	Johnny Preston
3/18/17	Dark	
3/24/17	All Plus Bonus Dance	Mike Seastrom Jerry Junck
4/15/17		Charlie Fagan
4/29/17	Advanced - A-1/A2	Dan Preedy
5/20/17		Don Schadt
6/17/17		Pat Carnathan



Web: **valleytrailers.org**
 Phone: **(818) 360-8750**
 Email: **VTsdClub@gmail.com**

