

**Richard and Lila Keilwitz**

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**From:** Dale Stephens [dalestephens@att.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 06, 2009 10:27 AM  
**To:** ralkjc@comcast.net  
**Subject:** SUMMER 09 TRAILBLAZER.doc

Here is a copy of the Trailblazer without the minutes included. I think this is what we wanted to put on the web site.  
Dale

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***MOUNTAINEERS SUMMER 2009 TRAILBLAZER***



# Trailblazer

## Mountaineers Square Dance Club

Edited by Dale and Sue Stephens

Please send articles & information to; [dalestephens@att.net](mailto:dalestephens@att.net) or 303-973-8734

Our club web page is <http://www.mountaineerssdc.org>

### ***FYI - There are two ways to receive your TRAILBLAZER:***

- (1) *E-Mail Note – this way you get it in full color and save the club the cost of printing and mailing (about \$1.50 per month). You can also print it out in either color or black and white – depending on your preference.*
- (2) *The OLD FASHION way – receive a printed copy – Black & White only! You can still save the club the cost of postage if you pickup your copy at the 1<sup>st</sup> Club Dance each month*



We are pleased to announce that Dale and Sue Stephens have accepted the post of Jr. Treasurer. They will also continue to serve as the corresponding secretary and editors of the Trailblazer. Mike and Penny Juoni have accepted the post of Western Welcome Week Chairmen and will coordinate the club's activities in preparation for the parade and burger fry on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

We had several wonderful dances this last month. The May Madness dance was a great success. Lynette and I would like to thank Dale and Sue Stephens and Mike and Merry Lou Stafford for their work on the dance.

The hospice dance raised \$1200 for the Hospice of St. John. We would like to thank Valley View Church of God for the donation of the hall for the evening. We would also like to acknowledge the callers and cuers who donated their time and talent. The callers included Don Furnish, Don Rouze, Bob Gaunt, and Todd Albright. The cuers included Roy Knight, Justin Judd del Sol, Jeff Cox, Sonny Risley, and Judy Birch-Powers.

Our Red, White and Blue Dance with Jim Kline and Roy Night will be in July 4<sup>th</sup>. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have our Hawaiian luau with Deborah Carroll-Jones and Jon Jones calling and Bill Carter on rounds. All of our other dances from June 6<sup>th</sup> to August 29<sup>th</sup> are casual attire dances.

Don't forget to attend the Safari Swing State Festival in Greeley from June 12<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> with national caller Jerry Junck and featured cuer couple Adrienne and Larry Nelson, along with many of your favorite Colorado callers and cuers.

Please read the proposed bylaw changes on page 12 and 13.

Jeff Cox and Lynette McElveen



I want to thank everyone for their support of the Hospice dance. We had 18 squares at the dance which reinforces

what we already know - square dancers are givers and love making a difference.

At the dance I had a couple of dancers ask me about the history of square dancing, so I thought I would include this article this month that answers that question. Have a great summer and I will see you in Greeley at the Colorado State Festival.

## **Square Dance History in the U.S.**

The following article was found in the archives of MACA (Mid Atlantic Challenge Association).

The square dance is an American institution. It began in New England when the first settlers and the immigrant groups that followed, brought with them their various national dances, which we now call folk dances, but which were the popular dances of the day in the countries of their origin - the schottische, the quadrille, the jigs and reels and the minuet, to name a few. After a week of toil in building new homes and carving homes out of virgin forest, the settlers would gather in the community center on Saturday evening and enjoy dancing their old-world favorites. As the communities grew and people of different backgrounds intermingled, so did their dances. As the repertoire increased, it became increasingly difficult for the average person to remember the various movements.

In almost any group, however, there would be at least one extrovert, the hail-fellow-well-met, the life-of-the-party type, with a knack for remembering the dance figures. With typical Yankee ingenuity, the settlers let this person cue or prompt them in case they happened to forget what came next. In due course, the prompter (or figure caller, as he became known) acquired a repertoire of various colorful sayings or patter that he could intersperse with the cues. Quite often he would learn the dances of other communities and he would teach them to the group. Some of these men were quite ingenious and developed dances and routines of their own, including dances for groups of four couples. This is the manner in which square dancing and its director (or caller) developed.

As the population spread southward and westward, so did the dances. Lacking the organized recreation of today, the hardworking pioneers felt a need for an activity that would provide recreation as well as social contact with neighbors. Square dancing filled this need. The only requirements were a wooden floor, music and a caller. A barn, somebody's living room, the town hall or, in later years, the grange hall provided the place. A caller was not always a basic requirement. If one was around, fine; if not, they did dances that they remembered or that someone in the group could prompt. As far as music was concerned, there was always someone on hand who could play a guitar, a fiddle or an accordion.

However, as the population became more urban it also became more cosmopolitan. Booming trade brought to our shores new fashions, new music, and new dances from other continents. The new dances became fashionable, and square dancing was displaced in our mushrooming cities. It survived only in isolated areas, in each of which an individual style peculiar to that region developed. In time, differences among these regional dances became so pronounced that a square dancer from one area often would not be able to dance in another. Square dancing seemed slated for oblivion.

In the early 1930's, Henry Ford became interested in the revival of square dancing as a part of his early New England restoration project. His efforts captured the interest of other individuals who then modernized the activity so that it would appeal to contemporary America while retaining its basic flavor. Square dancing groups began to form hither and yon. By 1948, square dancing had reached the level of a fad and there was some concern that interest would be short-lived. Such fears proved baseless. The people who had rediscovered this activity were determined to retain it, to perpetuate it and to share it with others. In the process of revival, the hillbilly band with its whiny fiddle was replaced by modern combos, which provided uniform performance through the medium, of high-fidelity recordings; the nasal-voiced, almost unintelligible caller was replaced with an articulate professional assisted by a public address system. The barn, the pitchfork, the bale of hay and the little brown jug disappeared from the scene and square dancing moved into the urban centers. Name tags, worn by all dancers, put everyone on a first-name basis and thereby created instant informality and good fellowship.

Square dancing had regained its old appeal in a modern setting and it spread over the nation. It is estimated that today this wholesome recreation is enjoyed by millions of Americans and by countless others around the world. Wherever Americans have gone overseas - England, Germany, Australia, Japan, etc, they have introduced square dancing and it has been received enthusiastically.

Any activity of this scope is an inviting target of commercialism, but square dancing is a cooperative activity involving the dancers themselves and their leaders have vigilantly guarded against the invasion of commercialism.

Far from being pale and static, modern western-style square dancing is vibrant and growing. New ideas and

figures are introduced each year, insuring that square dancing will not become boring and get into the rut of sameness. As interesting and enjoyable as square dancing is, it is not difficult. This activity can be enjoyed alike by the young and old, the handicapped and the able-bodied. All that is necessary is a thorough familiarity with a number of basic figures or movements, which are called in various combinations on the dance floor. Knowledge of and practice in these basic movements are best obtained through instruction is given in a series of weekly sessions which, for lack of a more descriptive term, are called beginners classes.

Having learned to square dance, new hobbyists find themselves in a brand new, heretofore unknown world. They are now among the millions of dancers active in the United States and internationally and because of standardized figures, they can dance throughout the United States and other countries. However, the average dancer remains in the "Mainstream" levels of square dancing for only four to five years. In order to extend this period of activity, "Advanced" and "Challenge" levels of square dancing have been developed. These additional levels of square dancing have maintained the interest of many dancers and have extended their dancing years.



**Mountaineers Banner Stealing Policy**

According to Mountaineer policy we are permitted to borrow one couple (2 people) to complete a square when stealing or retrieving.

In order to give credit, after the dance, please make a list and notify me who attended and your success at getting the banner.

*Judy Winter*

[jwinter80465@yahoo.com](mailto:jwinter80465@yahoo.com) 303-933-2037



<b>May 2009</b>		<b>June 2009</b>	
1	Tamara Harper	3	Mona Borden
1	Margaret Quick	8	Gary Hauswirth
2	Chuck Wheeler	10	Mary Stansbery
2	Neill McDaniel	21	Lynette McElveen
5	Larry Bultena	27	Judy Helm
6	Bev Krebs	27	Mary Lou Brown
6	Cathe Markell	29	Tim Cassidy

7	John Lowrimore
12	Sue Stephens
13	Laurie Bendell
14	Norma Hatcher
19	Dale Yowell
19	Judy Taylor
23	Del Stansbery
25	Carol Bushu
26	Larry Amsler
27	Gerald Owens

30	Gwen Laine

**July 2009**

4	Don Furnish
4	Joe Robbins
5	Bill Mayne
10	Gayle Peters
11	Ed Dornfeld
18	Bob Hunt
19	Marge Ogden
20	Judy Anderson
20	Carol Perdue
21	Karen Newton
25	Bob Nelson
29	Jim Hatcher

**August 2009**

3	Betty Burgener
3	Gene Taber
6	Lyle Gillett
11	Sandy Sugerman
19	Dave Siskowic
24	Barbara Isaacs
25	John Gille

If we missed anyone's birthday please let us know so we can include you the next time.



Sue and I need your help. We would like to hear from anyone who has news about themselves or their friends in the club. We would like to keep our membership informed regarding the activities of our peers. Do you know who made a trip, who had a new grandchild, who moved, who received some honor or award, etc.

We (Dale and Sue) left on 5/19 and traveled to Moab UT where we visited Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. While we were in Moab we danced with the Fallen Arches Square Dance Club. Jerry and Wanda from Rollin' Wheels stayed in the same campground and they joined us at Fallen Arches. On 5/23 we drove to Las Vegas, NV and spent several days visiting with Dale's aunt and uncle. Then we spent two days visiting friends in Tehachapi CA.

Lyle and Kathy Gillett went to Hanska, MN recently to visit with friends, and then to Rochester MN for a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party for friends. They stopped in Rapid City, SD for a couple of days before coming home.

Larry and Ann Amsler went to the Springfield MO area for a few days to visit friends and relatives and then to Branson for a few days. They spent one day at Silver Dollar City - near Branson.

In May, Gerald and Nadine Owens attended a high school graduation in McCook, NE. They also visited three of Nadine's sisters who live there. They also went to Las Vegas, NV where they attended the wedding of their youngest daughter, Roxanna on May 16th. The wedding was beautiful and everything went well. Roxanna's son, who is stationed in Phoenix, AZ, gave her away. Roxanna has one son and her husband has two daughters. Their new home is a few miles outside of Tehachapi, CA.

Judi Braunstein made a trip back to New Jersey recently to visit relatives and friends. She and her daughter then flew to Branson, MO, to take in some shows and spend some quality time together, before each flew back to their respective homes.

Karen Laine, Dick and Gwen's daughter, was happy to be asked to play keyboard/celeste for the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra. She is sitting in for a few months while the regular keyboardist is on health leave. Karen will be playing in a concert in June and in August.

Mel Gifford traveled to two graduations in May – one was his granddaughter's high school graduation and the other was a grandson's college graduation. Mel, I hope we didn't get this info backwards.

Dwayne and Lois Sterling's granddaughters graduated high school in May. Lois' family held a "Cousins Reunion" in Oklahoma the latter part of May and then they went on to Missouri to visit family.

Dick Markell is doing fine and is still at home. He said he is up and doing about anything he wants except dancing. All the cancer was removed during his earlier surgery and he has not had to go thru the chemo or radiation. He is scheduled for an additional surgery on July 1 to, as he said, put him all back to together. Please keep Dick in your thoughts and prayers.

## Trivia Question

How old were you when you started square dancing?

-

The members who were the youngest – Vicky Wagner – age 10 (Her dad was the caller for Square Halos)  
Jack Baker – age 10  
Carol Perdue – age 12 - 14  
Don Furnish – 17  
Ed Dornfeld - 18

Carol Perdue wrote "Our parents danced and eight of us kids danced for some demo dances. We all had matching outfits that our mothers made."

The member who was the oldest – Chick Chiclacos – age 83

Wilton Helm mentioned he proposed to Judy on Valentine's Day and they square danced later that evening and announced their engagement to the club.

Do you have an idea for the next trivia question? If so, we'd love to hear from you.



Rita Beasley	Knee replacement surgery



**There are two items in the Notices section this month. The first is about the Classes in September and the second is about proposed Bylaw changes. Please be sure to read both sections.**

### CLASSES IN SEPTEMBER

The Mountaineers Square Dance Club has enjoyed the status in the past of being the largest club in the Denver Metro Area; we would like to re-establish this position with your help! The club is now about one half the size of a short time ago. Since we lose 20 or more dancers every year due to attrition, we need to constantly bolster our numbers. The benefits of maintaining a large membership are:

- Lively, exciting dances with lots of participation
- Being able to book preferred callers without financial concern
- Having a minimum number of times with kitchen duty
- Many banner thieves for stealing and retrieving
- Larger pool for officers and committees
- Having a larger bank account for advertising, decorating, etc.
- Keeping square dancing alive and well---our club can be leaders in this!
- And the list goes on and on....

In borrowing some of the Timberline Toppers successful recruiting techniques (in 2005 they graduated 38 new students & 58 in 2006 who all joined their club), we Mountaineers can double our membership in a few short years. Their club acted on tried and true methods used before, from leadership seminars, USDA handouts, and successful clubs across the US---most of which involved good ol' word-of-mouth, person-to-person contact. We suggest an ice cream social as a way to use these techniques and bring in new members through our own classes. So we are asking you – our loyal club members – to help!

What we need from each one of our members is to provide the following:

- At least 2 couples' (or singles) name, address, telephone no., and e-mail
- A welcoming atmosphere for guests at an ice cream social & western dance
- A willingness to help the new dancers with floor time

There will be a special phone committee which will contact the people on your list by phone and individual mailed invitation.



**ARTICLE V: OFFICERS *AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:***

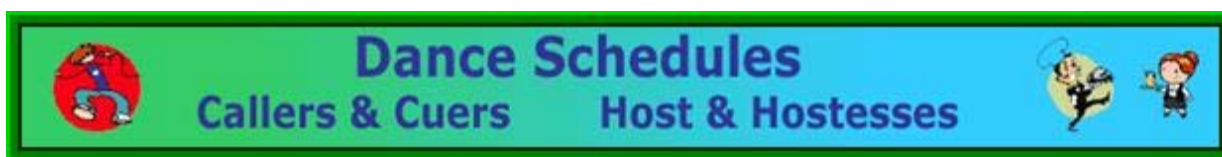
Section 1: The elected officers of the Mountaineers shall be President; Vice President/President elect; Recording Secretary; Corresponding Secretary; Senior Treasurer, Junior Treasurer. Vice President shall also be the President-elect to provide continuity in office. *The Junior Treasurer shall become the Senior Treasurer to provide continuity in office.* Two members shall be considered to fill the offices jointly and shall serve for one (1) year. They may be re-elected.

Reasoning: So that the bylaws reflect the practice of the Vice President/President elect becoming the President and the Jr. Treasurer becoming the Sr. Treasurer

**ARTICLE V: OFFICERS *AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:***

Section 2: ~~Other officers shall be committee people deemed necessary by The office of President.~~ *Board members shall consist of the Elected Officers, Senior and Junior Council Representatives, and Committee Heads and Co-Heads as deemed necessary by the office of the President. These board members shall have one vote per person.*

Reasoning: Definition of board members and voting privileges needed.



Thanks again for all the dependable and hard workers who help the Mountaineers have great dances. Carol Neises  
Please contact Carol at 303-798-4472 if you need to switch with someone due to unforeseen situations.

**June 6, 2009**

Caller: **Freddie McKee**

Cuer: **Bob Lyons**

**Host & Hostesses:**

**\*\*Ron & Karen Newton 303-771-0641**

**Ann Walsh 303-282-6624**

**Marcia LeVasseur 619-405-8997**

**Neill McDaniel 303-808-3080**

**June 20, 2009**

Caller: **Don Furnish**

Cuer: **Jeff Cox**

**Host & Hostesses:**

**\*\*Dwayne & Lois Sterling 303-798-1599**

**Mel Gifford 720-536-8221**

**Nancy Bowman 303-794-2376**

**July 4, 2009****Red, White, and Blue Dance**

Caller: **Jim Kline**

Cuer: **Roy Knight**

**Host & Hostesses:**

**\*\*Bob Hunt 303-791-7200**

**Rita Beasley 303-933-9167**

**Charles Chiclacos 303-988-5617**

**Bill and Jean Mayne 303-973-8445**

**July 18, 2009**

Caller: **Roger Schappell**

Cuer: **Ed Glenn**

**Host & Hostesses:**

**\*\*Ed & Karma Dornfeld 303-978-1654**

**John & Bev Lowrimore 303-794-1922**

**Carly Fabian 303-933-1078**

**August 1, 2009**

Caller: **Jon and Debra Jones** Cuer: **Bill Carter**

Host & Hostesses:

**\*\*Jim & Judy Taylor 303-795-3278 Steve & Judi Braunstein 303-537-4172**  
**Shirley McBroom 303-783-1739**

August 15, 2009

Caller: **Don Furnish** Cuer: **Jeff Cox**

Host & Hostesses:

**\*\*John Rivera 303-829-9750 Mary Lou Brown 303-694-2874**  
**Darrel and Pat Buss 303-979-0091**

August 29, 2009

Caller: **Steve Bailey** Cuer: **Justin Judd del Sol**

Host & Hostesses:

**\*\*Carol Neises 303-798-4472 Rick and Vicky Wagner 303-908-2807**  
**Gayle Peters 303-797-1675 Jack Baker 303-770-2789**

September 5, 2009

Caller: **Charlie Robertson** Cuer: **John Herr**

Host & Hostesses:

**\*\*Tim and Marilyn Cassidy 303-290-8673**

September 19, 2009

Caller: **Don Furnish** Cuer: **Justin Judd del Sol**

Host & Hostesses:

**\*\*TBD**

October 3, 2009

Caller: **Jeff Palmer** Cuer: **Jeff Cox**

Host & Hostesses:

**\*\*Gary and Marilyn Hauswirth 303-740-0587 Bob and Erica Nelson 303-649-1391**

October 17, 2009

Caller: **Don Furnish** Cuer: **John Herr**

Host & Hostesses:

**\*\*Joe and Minnie Robbins 303-791-7720 Larry and Gail Bultena 303-798-5347**

Thanks again to all the hard workers who help this club work. Carol Neises 303-798-4472

2009 Officers and Committee Heads:

<b>2009 Officers</b>	
<i>President</i>	<b>Jeff Cox and Lynette Ivy</b>
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>Mike and Merry Lou Stafford</b>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<b>Mike and Lynne Robbins</b>
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	<b>Dale &amp; Sue Stephens</b>

<i>Sr. Treasurers</i>	<b>Larry and Ann Amsler</b>
<i>Jr. Treasurers</i>	<b>Dale and Sue Stephens</b>

**Past Presidents:**     **Ron and Karen Newton**

**Committee Heads**

<i>Banner Stealing</i>	<b>Dan McPeek &amp; Judy Winter</b>
<i>Sr. Hospitality</i>	<b>Dick and Kathy Niebels</b>
<i>Jr. Hospitality</i>	<b>Carol Neises</b>
<i>Bulletin Newsletter</i>	<b>Dale &amp; Sue Stephens</b>
<i>Sr. Council Reps</i>	<b>Lyle and Kathy Gillett</b>
<i>Jr. Council Reps</i>	<b>Del and Mary Stansbery</b>
<i>Sr. Decorating Chairman</i>	<b>Walt Perry &amp; Pat Bailey</b>
<i>Historian:</i>	<b>Laurie Bendell</b>
<i>Photography</i>	<b>Judy Taylor</b>
<i>Webmasters</i>	<b>Richard &amp; Lila Keilwitz</b>
<i>Calling Committee Chair</i>	<b>Norma Hatcher</b>
<i>May Madness</i>	<b>Dale and Sue Stephens</b>

➤ Visit the Mountaineers Web Site. See "What's New" on the web site.

<http://www.mountaineerssdc.org>



**FREE!!!**

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
WITH INTRO TO SQUARE DANCING**

Monday, September 14, 2009 7:00 p.m.

# Valley View Church gymnasium 4390 So. Lowell Blvd. (just south of Quincy)

Lessons will continue on Mondays and Thursdays, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
New Dancers can start September 14, 17, 21 (1st lesson free)

## Put some FUN in your life And meet new friends!!!



Sponsored by the  
Mountaineers Square Dance Club

**For further information, call**

Jim & Judy Taylor: **(303) 795-3278** or  
Don Furnish-Instructor: **(303) 840-7335**

Dear Fellow Club Members:

Help us keep our wonderful club strong & growing. Provide us with the names & addresses of as many couples as you can think, to whom we can send an invitation for them to attend lessons.

**Don't be concerned about them being good prospects, just so they are mentally & physically capable and that you would want to associate with them.**

Thanks for being such a great and supportive group!

Sincerely,

Your Class Committee

Club Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the form to Jim & Judy Taylor