

2008 Hoedown



HOEDOWN STAFF

TOM ROPER: Tom and Suzy and their two children live in Omaha, IL. Tom started calling in 1977, during the winter months Tom calls in Tower Point RV Resort in Mesa, AZ. The rest of the year Tom travels about 40,000 miles calling for clubs. He calls at levels of dance thru A-2, also recorded on many labels. Tom has called 32 consecutive National Square Dance Conventions since 1978, and has been featured called at State Conventions and festivals around the country.

From the beginning of the dance, till the final tip of the evening, you can feel the excitement in his music and share in his enthusiasms.

Tom strongly feels that regardless of the level of dances, square dancers, should "HAVE FUN DANCING".

JERRY JUNCIG: Jerry began square dancing in 1965. He started calling a year later, while still in high school. For the next 20 years, he was the club caller for a number of clubs in northeast Nebraska. The spring of 1986 brought with it the decision to devote full time to calling square dances.

An accredited member of CALLERLAB since 1976, Jerry has served as chairman of both the Rural Area Considerations Committee and the CALLERLAB Foundation. He was a member of the Board of Governors, Executive Committee, and Chairman of the Board. He made the decision to retire from the Board in 2004.

Jerry firmly believes in the development of new callers and the continuing education of established callers. He and Jim Mayo are the coauthors of a book on choreography called, "Standard Choreography." Designed with the newer caller in mind. As an accredited CALLERLAB coach, Jerry has been on the staff of various caller schools and seminars around the country. He conducts his own school, The Heart of America Caller's School, each summer in the Midwest.

During the winter months, Jerry and his wife, Sharon, make their home in Mesa, Arizona where he is the resident caller for the Mesa Spirit, Monte Vista, and Lost Dutchman resort parks. While there, he maintains a complete program of square dancing from beginners through A-2.

Jerry has recorded for Chinook, Global, and Crown Records and has been the featured caller at many festivals and weekends around the country. Traveling extensively during the summer months, he thoroughly enjoys the traveling side of calling and the many friends he has made. He takes special pride in calling smooth, flowing choreography with the basic philosophy that... "SQUARE DANCING SHOULD BE FUN." This will be Jerry's 30th Hoedown.

LANNY WEAKLEND: Lanny returns to call for his 7th year at the Hoedown and has attended every Hoedown since 1981. Lanny and Carol live in Omaha, NE. Lanny started calling in 1985, and has called at National Conventions, State Conventions, HASSDA conventions.

Lanny has been a member of CALLERLAB since 1990, also has served or is currently on several committees and has held various positions with Callers and Cuers, state and local level and CallerLab.

Lanny and Carol both enjoy the square dance activity and the thousands of people they have met across the country. Their wish is that everyone could experience the fun, fellowship and music as they do.

LARRY AND SUSAN SPERRY: Larry and Susan Sperry started dancing as teenagers in Missoula, MT in 1961. In June of 1982 they moved to Billings, MT and began cueing and teaching Round Dancing. Since 1988 the Sperrys have been cueing and teaching for Square Dance clubs and Silhouettes Round Dance Club Phases 2-6 and National Carousel Club 318 in Billings, Montana. Larry also cues Rounds for Challengers Square Dance Club. In addition to teaching Round Dancing and choreographs Ballroom Dancing in Billings, MT, they also teach social dance classes including Ballroom and Latin dances.

The Sperry's have accepted many weekend and festival staff invitations including three Top of the Line Cruises, and six International Festivals they have been featured instructors for many regional festivals and several State Conventions including Montana, Idaho and Hawaii. Larry and Susan have taught at USA West Convention and Canadian National Convention. They are active members of the International Choreographed Ballroom Association, Roundalab, Dixie Round Dance Council, Yellowstone Callers and Cuers Association and the Yellowstone Ballroom Club.

The Sperry's have 2 adult sons and 2 grandchildren. In addition to both working full time they travel often to pursue their favorite hobby, dancing, and to further their teaching skills. They enjoy sharing their knowledge with other dancers and especially enjoy teaching new dancers.

KEN AND BARB LABAU: Ken and Barb started dancing in 1982 and teaching rounds in 1990 in Monticello and later in the Minneapolis area. They currently teach 4 classes a week, from beginners to phase V and cue for several clubs monthly. They have cued for many festivals, state and national conventions and previously at the Sioux Empire Hoedown. They have showcased in US Nationals, USA West, and Canadian Nationals. They were chairpersons of the showcase of rounds at the 51st Nationals in St. Paul. They emphasize the "Round Dance Classics" when teaching and enjoy helping dancers feel good about themselves. Ken and Barb have been on the Hoedown Staff numerous times.