CALLER CROWD-PLEASERS

(Submissions included chronologically – scroll to bottom for most recent)

58.2 (May 2016)

Roy Leber (he was a gold mine of one-liners): "Follow your neighbor and spread – Ed, Ned, Jed, Fred, and Ted" (or other names). "Heads roll away – that's a guillotine."

Howard Richman: I have always enjoyed his original choreography, especially his clever and entertaining Asymmetric Squares and his "Move On" routines.

Ed Foote (king of put-downs): "It's a pleasure to watch you dance." "And the crowd goes wild!" "Well, at least you broke down smoothly … and that square was a close second." (During last tip) "The best dancers always stay to the end of the dance."

General: I get energized when callers put together familiar calls in an order that I don't remember ever doing.

Dan Tapper: When our club had a scheduling snafu, we called Dan. He paused only to change clothes, then grabbed his equipment and rushed over. With no time for prep, this brand-new caller wowed us with a fantastic dance program.

Howard Williamson: I particularly enjoy his rendition of "Don't give me no plastic saddle, it gives me blisters," with the body language as he sings.

Mark Franks: He is so good both as a caller and with his dry sense of humor.

Dennis Reardon: We all laughed when he called "Yellow Rock – everyone U Turn Back – Back Up – Erase the Yellow Rock."

Jim Snyder: I enjoy dancing in his unusual positions for different calls – not necessarily arky, but positions that make you think of what the call really means.

Howard Richman: I always feel like I'm in a Broadway play troupe, especially with his singing voice.

Joe Landi: "These calls are not optional." (He was gifted a vest with this saying by Middletown Ramblers at their anniversary dance last year.)

Mark Franks: He makes Mainstream as interesting as Plus. He's that good!

Wayne Applegate: I've always felt a special attachment to Wayne; maybe because we both love history, maybe because we both love Lancaster, Pennsylvania, maybe because he's the one who taught me to square dance. And although it means a dance with him has ended, I've always loved his signature finale: "Ladies and gentlemen, my thanks to *you* – because in square dancing, there is no FUN without U."

Nick Martellacci: His music is fresh, current, lively, and just terrific!

Howard Richman: I very much enjoy his traveling squares, in which he breaks us into couples and has us move on several times to other couples to keep making new four-person squares. It gives you a chance to dance with lots of different people.

Mark Franks: (You're gonna love this!) I'm not sure what I enjoy more about Mark's calling, his witty comments or his creative choreography. (Clap, clap, clap!)

58.3 (September 2016)

Jim Snyder: "Can you handle three women?!"

Ken Ritucci: Ken has a delightful way of acknowledging a square's successful completion of a difficult sequence ("Gold star for you.") and helping us laugh off a breakdown ("You're toast.").

Betsy Gotta: Betsy made simple choreography a lot of fun by having us keep a veerrry long string around the perimeter of our square off the floor. What made it challenging? Dancers were not allowed to use hands – only their waists, shifting of body weight, and lots of square cooperation.

Tim Marriner: Tim, always the showman, makes the singer "Cowboy" extra entertaining by adding all his sound effects.

Dan Tapper: I can understand what he's calling; it's clear, he enunciates. He's also a truly nice and patient person who doesn't make people feel like jerks when they mess up – very supportive.

Don Bachelder: When Don called for our last dance, we had a record seven squares! He uses a good mixture of music, and he and his wife, Sally-Ann, are just nice people who are an asset to square dancing.

Len Anfinsen: He's the first one I heard calling "Neutron Dance" as a singer, and he does it so well!

Don Coy: How can crooning a love song turn into a great square dance? Just dance to Don Coy.

Fran Wadel: I like her chutzpah!

Dan Tapper: His music has a good beat, he gives good explanations, and I like the musical fill-ins he provides between words.

Paul Ingis: Our club is most pleased by Paul's choice of music from his large repertoire. We look forward to his lively tunes. We also like his dangle dances.

Wayne Applegate: His voice is so clear that I can hear and understand him, even without a microphone.

Nick Martellacci: Nick will always be memorable for his quirky outfits, shirt covered with beach shoes, leprechaun shoes, etc. As this talented, entertaining caller retires, we will miss him and we wish him well.