

**News From The
FLUSHING ROADRUNNERS
FLUSHING, MI
(February 27, 2003)**

The Roadrunners of Flushing, Michigan have partnered with *Lifesteps* to help recruit new dancers. *Lifesteps* is an organization providing health related classes and activities for GM employees and retirees that worked in the Flint, Michigan area. It is a negotiated benefit between GM and the local unions. *Lifesteps* pays for their members that attend the lessons. Wayne Pelmeur, the caller/teacher for the Roadrunners, sites two advantages for working with *Lifesteps*. The first is the people who see the information are looking for health and exercise classes. The second is that the people do not look at them as being free but something they earned by working at GM. *Lifesteps* lists the new dancer schedule in their quarterly calendar and flyers are put in the union halls. They also get new dancers from demo's and advertising, but the majority come from word of mouth.

A couple of years ago the Roadrunners started using a multi-cycle program and started teaching 3 sets of classes a year. All three classes are taught the same night for one hour each. The classes run from 10 to 15 weeks and are divided between basic, mainstream and plus. The dancers are encouraged not to move on to the next level until they feel confident where they are. Pelmeur states they want everyone to enjoy dancing and not think it is too hard.

Wayne states another thing about the way he runs his classes and dances is that the most important thing for anyone who walks through the door is for them to laugh, have fun, and enjoy themselves. He teaches the CALLERLAB definitions but does not discourage the extras some dancers put in. Pelmeur states; "I think that some of us have become more concerned that the dancers do it the proper (our) way than that the dancers have FUN. I think that this may be the main problem with square dancing today, people are not having enough FUN."