

Gold Card (Life Member) - 2010

Jon Jones

Presented by John Kaltenthaler

Prior to tonight there have only been 13 Gold Card Life Memberships awarded to individuals. As we proceed many of you will try to guess who will be the recipient tonight.

Some might say, "I'll bet it is so and so.." Regardless of your guess, I feel confident that you will all appreciate the selection for tonight's recipient

This man began his regular calling in 1955, although he claims an early appearance doing a singing call as a young 7th grade student many decades ago. He has called at many festivals, square dance vacations, in most of the states and 12 countries outside of the USA. He has taught "for-credit" courses at the university level. His credits also include recording for five record producers. He and his son were the first all CALLERLAB duo to record a duet record.

One of his early mentors was Ray Smith who remarked to our recipient while watching a floor of dancers as all the floor stopped dancing "That caller is so good that nobody can dance to him." But before I go on listing his accomplishments, perhaps I might share a few highlights from his past.

Some callers will do anything to get to a dance in a timely manner. For instance, our recipient was scheduled to go to a regional dance with a pilot friend. They were going to fly in a small plane but they found the battery was dead. After they had placed all of the baggage on the seats, they realized the battery was under the seat

So the baggage was removed. Then they decided that they would push the plane into the taxi way to get to the battery charger. More exhausting work. Unfortunately, the battery charger was broken and other plans had to be quickly arranged. A manual start was the solution. Our recipient didn't know what that meant. The helpful pilot's instruction was "Crank the propeller by hand and quickly get out of the way."

Our recipient did this without further incident or any loss of body parts. Bravely he even agreed to return home with the same pilot. Then on the return flight our recipient was handed the controls and told to fly the plane. "But I don't know how to fly the plane", he whimpered. The pilot told our recipient to "Just pull back if you want to go higher and push down if you want to go lower. Turn the control right to go right and turn it left if you want to go left." Then the pilot went to sleep. Piloting and life were simpler then.

Another time our caller friend was at a roadside cafe for breakfast and the waitress asked him if he wanted hash browns or grits. Being a well-mannered man he said, "I know what hash browns are but what are grits?" She explained the composition of grits, so our recipient aid, "That sounds pretty good, I'll have one grit."

He attended the first CALLERLAB Convention in 1974. He has served on many different CALLERLAB committees and has chaired many of them. He was awarded the coveted Milestone award, the highest award CALLERLAB bestows. He has served on the Board of Governors for many years and was Chairman of the Board for two years and currently serves as Chair of the Application Review Committee.

He is an Accredited Caller-Coach and was instrumental in the development of the Caller Training Program. By now, many of you have figured out who the recipient is tonight. It is now my distinct pleasure and privilege to present this Gold Card and Life Membership to Jon Jones of Arlington, Texas.