



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for December 14, 2014

We had a tremendous turnout of members Friday night, with 99 attending our annual Toys and Books for Kids Dance to support the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County. As for guests – well, not so good. We greatly appreciate the four who came. Donations were excellent with **\$535 in cash and checks and over \$450 worth of books and toys donated**. Your generosity will make Christmas merrier for lots of kids. You had several opportunities to contribute – the cash, books, and toys for the CACCC; a Christmas bonus for the folks at Mama's Pizza; and voting for the Singing Call/Round Dance of the Year competition – and your support of all three of these efforts was great. Thank you! Thanks to Bob and Kathy Estep for volunteering to consolidate and take donations to the CACCC and to estimate the value of the books and toys.

We welcomed four new members to our club – the true highlight of the night! We are thrilled to have Phil and Ann Lee and Ron Schweers and Marcela Holley as Swinging Stars. Phil, Ann, and Marcela will graduate from our lessons Tuesday night, and Ron, Marcela's dancing partner, is an experienced square dancer.

Congratulations to all Swinging Stars for earning the 400 visit Friendship Program club patch. That is truly great! **Congratulations to the following members who received individual Friendship Program awards** at the dance Friday night: Tom and Vicki Evanto – Gold 325, Bob and Terry Pitts – Gold 300, Adam and Jean Sobotka – Gold 150, Bob and Kathy Estep – Gold 100, Steve and Debbie Sherrell – Silver 50, and Dave and Mary Colter – Silver 25. It's wonderful to belong to such an enthusiastic and fun group!

Our mainstream class will graduate on Tuesday. Come out and congratulate our students.

We have two great visitations coming up this weekend. Friday, we will visit the Texas Reelers. This is an official visit – wear your [turquoise/aqua](#) (or Christmas or whatever you want) attire. Saturday, we will visit the Rebel Rousers. Both these clubs are always lots of fun, and both dance at the Richardson Senior Center, so it's a breeze to get to their dances. Let's have a great turnout and get our banner back from the Reelers and get a banner from both clubs!

Ralph and Lucy

Happening This Week

Tuesday, December 16 – **Mainstream lessons graduation**, Carpenter Rec Center, 7:15PM

Friday, December 19 – Official visit to Texas Reelers (wear [turquoise/aqua](#)); see details in Coming Events below.

Saturday, December 20 – Visit to Rebel Rousers; see details in Coming Events below.

Announcements

A note from Rita Putnam: Hey dear friends, please pray for me. I'm scheduled Tuesday for a reasonably easy surgery, but due to health issues my surgeon has called in extra help and expects approx 2 months of healing time. With your prayers I hope that shortens! I'd also like help thru the pain since I can't take pain meds, tylenol, etc. Bless you. Rita Putnam
Please keep Rita in your thoughts and prayers.

ATTENTION LADIES (from Anne Nejd, hostess of December luncheon):

CHANGE IN VENUE: The Chocolate Angel was having difficulty fitting us all in their limited space, so **Vickie Bullock offered to host the luncheon in her home.** The luncheon will remain on **Tuesday, December 23rd at 11:30**, but we now have the option to be really loud and take our time eating and playing games. I will provide a ham, games and prizes. Vickie will provide the house. You provide the fun. I have a running list of those who already responded they are attending the party, and look forward to hearing from the rest of you ladies. **Please respond to Anne Nejd ([972-964-5979](tel:972-964-5979) or Yo_Red@verizon.net) by Friday, December 19th** if you plan on attending so Vickie and I can plan accordingly. Please bring either a salad or dessert to share. The dreaded White Elephant gift exchange is optional. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped item you wish to re-gift or if you wish to purchase a new item, its value should be no more than \$10. Be kind in what you re-gift.

The Bullock's address is:

4076 Olympic Court
Plano, TX 75093
[972-867-3304](tel:972-867-3304)

From Anne and Russ Nejd, Anniversary Dance Chairmen:

Even though we are all busy with the holiday season, we have just **over a month until our Anniversary Dance on January 23rd.** I am **still in need of volunteers to bring 10 baked potatoes each.** Wrap a medium baking potato (like a russet potato) in aluminum foil and bake in oven until soft. Leave the potatoes in the foil. Line a cooler with a towel and place your potatoes in the cooler. The potatoes will remain warm until we serve them. Be sure to mark your name on your cooler so you can retrieve it at the end of the dance. We **still need kitchen angels who will serve the potatoes and move our visitors through the serving lines.** Kitchen angels also bus the tables and replenish the condiments. **Please send me an email if you can help Yo_Red@verizon.net**

Some of you have asked for suggestions for proper attire to our disco dance. Square dance attire is always appropriate, but here are some suggestions to help:

https://www.google.com/search?q=suggestions+for+disco+attire&rlz=1T4GGHP_enUS607US607&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=AgyOVP7vHoz3yQTW04LACw&ved=0CFAQsAQ&biw=1920&bih=953 -

Scary isn't it?! I think you couldn't go wrong with polyester.

The entire club will participate in the general clean up and we will all head to the Lassiter's house for a well-needed after-party. Thank you Dan and Nina for offering to host the party.

Jive (round dance) lessons start January 20 in "our room" at Carpenter Rec Center and will be taught by JL and Linda Pelton. Start time is 7:15PM, and lessons will continue on Tuesday nights through March 10. The barcode for the course is 163128. Plano residents can register beginning January 3, and nonresidents can register beginning January 5. The course is listed as Choreographed Ballroom Jive in the Adult section of the Plano Parks and Rec winter catalog. Jive is a very fun and active dance and is similar to jitterbug you may have done in the days of your youth. A couple of jives are cued at most area square dances. So round dancers and would-be round dancers, make your plans to register. Jive should be an integral part of your round dance repertoire.

Shepard Elementary Custodian – Miguel Angel

The Swinging Stars donated \$320.00 for Miguel's holiday gift, and it was given to him during the last dance on Friday December 12th. He is very appreciative and said it comes at a great time as he is the recent proud father of a new two week old boy, Antonio. Thank you Swinging Stars for your generosity! Having Miguel support our dance is a wonderful perk at the school!

* * * From Your 2nd VPs * * *

For those plus dancers looking for a great time and an extra challenge, Wednesday, December 17, Plus 4s will have Charles Quisenberry calling squares at the Webbs Chapel United Methodist Church in Farmers Branch (7:30 pm dance).

Our current Swinging Star banner inventory is shown below. If you visit a club whose banner we have, please don't bring home another one.

Banners Captured by the Swinging Stars

Club	Date Captured
Cotton Pickin' Squares	13-Dec-14
Decatur 8ers	4-Oct-14
Diamond Jubileers	13-Sep-14
Kissin' Kuzzins	03-Oct-14
Log Cabin Swingers	4-May-13
Roadrunners	17-Jul-14
Solitaires	04-Jan-14
Tri-City Promenaders	23-Aug-14

Swinging Stars Banners Out

Club	Date Captured
Texas Reelers	14-Nov-14

* * * EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK * * *

Of Interest, Cotton Pickin' Squares, Saturday, December 13th

Ten (10) Swinging Stars traveled to the Cotton Pickin' Squares in Greenville Saturday evening – and captured their banner. The squares were called by our own Texas Hall of Fame caller Wayne Baldwin, and rounds were cued by Christine Hixson. The theme for the evening was "Santa's Helpers Dance". Some of the recent graduates from their fall lessons (taught by Charles Quisenberry) were there. We were serenaded by Wayne, Quiz and Christine on the last Christmas Carol of the evening. Swinging Stars attending were the Bursons, Esteps, Harrises, Lewises, and Pharrs
(Thanks to Bob Estep and Linda Harris for providing information for this report.)

* * * COMING EVENTS * * *

Of Interest, Texas Reelers, Friday, December 19th

Location: Richardson Senior Center (820 West Arapaho Road, Richardson, TX)
Time: Early rounds – 7:15PM / grand march – 7:45PM
Caller: Deborah Carroll-Jones
Cuer: Jack von der Heide
Theme: Tis the Season to be Jolly
Notes: **Banner Retrieval**, if you have it, wear turquoise/aqua

Of Interest, Rebel Rousers, Saturday, December 20th

Location: Richardson Senior Center (820 West Arapaho Road, Richardson, TX)
Website: <http://www.rebelrousersdallas.com>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / food served – 7:30PM / grand march – 8:00PM
Caller: Mike Bramlett
Cuer: Christine Hixson
Theme: Bacon Dance

Ladies Luncheon, Tuesday, December 23rd

Location: The Bullock's home (4076 Olympic Court, Plano)
Time: 11:30 am
Hostess: Anne Nejd (Yo_Red@verizon.net or call 972-964-5979)
Notes: Let Anne know by Friday, December 19th if you plan to go

Refreshments Duty and Information

December 26	Dance cancelled (day after Christmas)
January 9	Whipple , Bullock, DeLuke, Stuart
January 23	Club Anniversary Dance - All Members Help
February 13	Estep , Dennison, Foust, Feldman
February 27	Harris , Lassiter, Reid, Row
March 13	Trujillo , Gifford, Jimison, Hardin/Smith
March 27	Loven , Lewis, Loxsom, Hamm

Upcoming Advertised Swinging Stars Theme Dances

SWINGING STARS
40TH ANNIVERSARY
DISCO DANCIN'
With the Stars

Born In The Disco Age And Celebrating Our Disco Roots
Friday, January 23, 2015

LOVE IS STILL IN THE AIR

AT THE

Swinging Stars

February 27TH

Caller: Wayne Baldwin

Early Rounds: 7:00

Cuer: Walter Brewer

Grand March: 8:00



Important dates for the next year (you should have these on your calendar!):

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 – Jive round dance lessons start

Friday, January 23, 2015 – Swinging Stars 40th Anniversary Dance

Saturday, January 31, 2015 – Dave and Lorraine Burson's 50th Anniversary Dance – everyone is invited

June 4 – 7, 2015 – 53rd Annual Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival, Waco, TX

June 24 – 27, 2015 – 64th National Square Dance Convention, Springfield, MA

October 30 – November 1, 2015 – NORTEX Callers Cavalcade and Round-Up

Check out and Like our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swinging-Stars-Square-Round-Dance-Club/278689705592854>

For information about weekend dances, go to our Web Page www.swingingstars.org and click on Weekends.

Remember our Sunshine person is Debbie Piziali, and you can email her at debbie@piziali.dv.org or phone her at 214-552-9802. Please contact her with anything that we need to be aware of in regards to sickness or other issues.

Ralph and Lucy Hamm
Swinging Stars President

Email: president@swingingstars.org

Phone: 214-872-7219
