

Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for December 22, 2013

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS



Hope! Love! Family! God! I pray that you all enjoy the season and celebrate the Holidays being with your family and friends.

Vote, vote and vote again for your favorite Caller & Cues song. The annual Singing Call of the Year dance and the Round Dance Cues Dance of the year at Swingtime on January 26, 2014, so mark your calendars. The dance itself is free. Voting cost \$1 per ballot and three votes on each ballot. You can use the ballot out of the Promenade and make as many copies as you want.

Thanks so much!

Richard and Jan

DANCE LESSONS

Our square dance graduation went very well. Wayne is a great teacher and the students are dancing well. We hope to get them out to dance several times a week in order to help those calls become part of their permanent memory. So, new members, part of the learning process is to reinforce what you have learned and dancing a couple times per week, or more, will help you be a better square dancer. As Wayne said the first night of lessons, he is the instructor but repetition is the teacher. Don't let these past eighteen weeks go to waste – use what you learned. Go dancing and build a group of new friends in the process.

Round Dance Lesson - Basic Choreographed Ballroom - Beginning Two Step - Co-Sponsored by the Swinging Stars Square & Round Dance Club of Plano and Plano Parks & Recreation
Tuesday, March 18th thru May 20th @ Carpenter Recreation Center- 6701 Coit Road, Plano Texas 75023
Ten lessons taught by Instructors: J L and Linda Pelton - Course # 154588

We have discovered that Carpenter Recreation Center may let us have the room starting January 21 for 8 to 10 weeks. So, stay tuned to this newsletter to hear.... Is it true or false and if it is, what are we going to do with it???? We hope we get the room for the winter semester as we have wanted it for some time. This way we would have it year round in the 7:00 – 9:00pm time slot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Correction from last week – the Holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, January 18th and not Friday.

From Jim Bondi - Just a friendly reminder about the next "Friendship Plus" dance Monday/tomorrow 12/23 at 7PM in the Richardson Senior Center on Arapaho ~ 1 mi east of Coit. Yes, it'll be the eve of Christmas Eve -- but what a great way to get into the full holiday spirit -- dancing and laughing with friends and comrades.

Come get a real dose of all-plus floor time and work on polishing your skills in an "everyone's welcome," supportive environment.

11th Annual
Singing Call & Round Dance of the Year
(and it's free)
Swingtime Center
7:00 PM 7:00 PM
January 26, 2014

Vote for your favorite Song or Round Dance of the Year
Performed by your Favorite Caller, Cuer, Duet, or Group.
Ballots must be received by January 1 of 2014 to be eligible.
Download a Ballot: www.nortexcallers.com

All proceeds from the balloting will go to MDA-Dallas North District (for ALS research)

*** * * From Your 2nd VPs * * ***

Merry Christmas to all and we hope you are having a good time with family and friends this holiday season.

The Swinging Stars were a visiting bunch this week with dancers attending at least 6 dances en masse including three on Friday night and two on Saturday night. Read about the details below. And there was a special Ladies Luncheon hosted by Anne Nejdil which was attended by about 18 ladies. In addition to a delicious lunch, they had a white elephant gift exchange, door prizes, and played games. All had a great time. Thanks again Anne, for hosting this fun event for several years.

This week, being Christmas, is a relatively quiet dance scene. The only dance on the calendar is a dance of interest with the Dixie Chainers for their double deal Holiday dance at the Farmers Branch Senior Center.

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	23-Mar-13
Decatur 8'ers	5-Oct-13
Dixie Chainers	28-Sep-13
Log Cabin Swingers	4-May-13
Lone Star Solos	28-Mar-13
North Star 8	09-Feb-13
Rebel Rousers	21-Dec-13
Texas Reelers	15-Nov-13
Texoma Squares	01-Jun-13
Tri-City Promenaders	26-Jan-13
T-Square Gadabouts	15-Feb-13
Yellow Rockers	18-Apr-13

Swinging Stars Banners Out

Club	Date Captured
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* * * EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK * * *

Plus 4's, December 18th

One short of a dozen Swinging Stars visited the Plus 4's in Farmers Branch on Wednesday. Veteran club caller, Charles Quisenberry (AKA "Quiz"), led us through an evening that was both educational and entertaining. Our education included classwork on uncommon start position Crossfires (one ending in quarter tag formation and another ending in parallel waves) and uncommon start position Coordinates (ending with men as centers of each wave). Quiz also surprised us with a pop quiz on "Beer Cup Chain" in which men (not ladies) work their way clockwise (not counter-clockwise) around the square's 4 positions where "stationary" ladies (not men) arm turn them onward to their next step. During one special break, surprised attendees shouted out in glee when who appeared but jolly old Saint Nick, adorned in red, spouting "Ho Ho Ho" and distributing candy to all. Busy with Christmas season work, Santa soon left, but the cheer he brought remained evident on dancers' faces. The visiting Swinging Stars included: P. Amy, the Bondis, Bursons, Evantos, Kilejjians, and the Lewises. Thanks to Jim Bondi for reporting the dance details.

Dance of Interest, Rockwall Squares, December 20th

We took advantage of a rare opportunity and visited the Rockwall Squares (they usually dance the same nights we do) on Friday night. And we had a bevy of Swinging Stars there – 23 to be precise. This was a new dancers dance with Christine Hixson on the rounds and Wayne Shoemaker calling the squares. Christine cued many crowd favorites and Wayne tailored the squares for the new dancers working in a few twists to keep them on their toes. The Rockwall Squares served chili with the fixings and desserts to the dancers. The Swinging Stars at the dance were: the Brandens, Bursons, Covingtons, Esteps, Fousts, Halvorsons, Harrises, Kerns, Lloyds, Pitts, the Sherrells, and C. Wolfe.

Dance of Interest, Kissin' Kuzzins, December 20th

Eight Swinging Stars enjoyed the famous hospitality of the Kissin' Kuzzins Friday night. They danced to the expert calling of OUR own Wayne Baldwin (we only loan him to the Kuzzins twice a month). Round dancers were treated to the skillful cueing of JL Pelton. Both Wayne and JL entertained with several Christmas carols, and a merry time was had by all. Swinging Stars attending were the Bullocks, Hamms, Hardin/Smith, and the Starretts. Thanks to Ralph Hamm for providing the dance details.

Texas Reelers, December 20th

Two pairs of Swinging Stars visited the Texas Reelers in Richardson on Friday. Smooth rounds were cued by Jack von der Heide while fast paced rounds were called by veteran club caller, Deborah Carroll-Jones. As always, Deborah kept dancers alert by throwing them an occasional "curve ball". For example, in the middle of our promenade, she barked "head couples zoom", a call which created at least a few sets of glazed eyes across the floor. As we've come to anticipate, she and hubby, Jon Jones, joined forces in one tip to sing a great duet. All attendees had a great time. The visiting Swinging Stars were the Bondis and the Kilejians. Thanks to Swinging Stars star reporter, Jim Bondi, for the dance report.

Of Interest, Rebel Rousers, December 21st

A whopping 29 Swinging Stars visited the Rebel Rousers in Richardson on Saturday for their "Make It with Bacon" dance. You guessed it, virtually all food served included or was wrapped with bacon (bacon wrapped chestnuts, Bacon wrapped green olives, bacon wrapped BBQ sausage links, candied bacon, chocolate cover bacon, bacon brownies, etc.). Consumers rated each dish and one lucky cook took home the highly coveted "Golden Oinker" trophy. Wonderful rounds were cued by Christine Hixson while energetic, fun-filled squares were called by Texas Hall of Fame caller, Mike Bramlett. Wearing pink piggy ears atop his head befitting the dance's theme, Mike treated square dancers to a lively evening of mainstream and two plus tips. New callers-to-be, James Alexander and Richard Covington, also exhibited their steadily increasing prowess as they directed a half of a tip each, James pattering and Richard singing quite nicely. And Bates Richmond, the Rebel Rousers' President, wore a Piggy Nose. The dance was also a "Food Drive" dance. Voters put money in glasses displayed by each dish with the proceeds being used to purchase food for the needy. We won back our banner, received a Rebel Rousers' banner, and were awarded a 2 lb. can of coffee. All attendees had a terrific time. Visiting Swinging Stars were: the Bondis, Bursons, Covingtons, Feldmans, Halvorsons, M. Hardin, Heintzes, Jacobs, Kilejians, Lassiters, Rows, Sees, Sherrells, Sobotkas, and the Starretts. Thanks to Jim Bondi and Richard Covington for sharing the dance documentation.

Texoma Squares, December 21st

Ten of our members had a fun Saturday night at the Texoma Squares in Dennison. They were treated to the always professional and enjoyable calling of guest caller Wayne Baldwin. Karen Gloodt recordings introduced by Wayne cued the rounds -- unfortunately, no live Karen. Those attending were treated to the wonderful feast for which the Texoma Squares are known. Everyone was in the Christmas spirit and had a great time. The following Swinging Stars made the trip: the Colters, Hamms, HARRISES, Morses, and the Trujillos. Thanks to Ralph Hamm for providing dance details.

*** * * COMING EVENTS * * ***

Of Interest, Dixie Chainers, Saturday, December 28th

Location: Farmers Branch Senior Center (14055 Dennis Lane, Farmers Branch, TX)
Website: <http://www.dixiechainers.com/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / grand march – 7:30PM
Caller: Vernon Jones
Cuer: Jack von der Heide
Theme: Holiday Dance – double deal

ADD Plus, Monday, December 30th

Location: Richardson Senior Center (820 W. Arapaho Road, Richardson, TX)
Website: n/a
Time: Dance – 7:00PM
Caller: Mike Bramlett
Theme: Anniversary double deal dance

Of Interest, Rebel Rousers, Tuesday, December 31st

Location: Richardson Senior Center (820 W. Arapaho Road, Richardson, TX)
Website: <http://www.rebelrousersdallas.com/>
Time: Early rounds – 8:00PM / grand march – 9:00PM
Caller: Mike Bramlett
Cuer: Christine Hixson
Theme: New Year's Eve dance
Note: Black-eyed peas at midnight

OR

Of Interest, T-Square Gadabouts, Tuesday, December 31st

Location: Swingtime Center (SE Loop 820 @ Anglin, Fort Worth, TX)
Time: Early rounds – 8:00PM / dance – 9:00PM
Callers: Wayne Baldwin and Rick Smith
Cuer: Charles Crockett
Theme: New Year's Eve dance
Note: Refreshments all evening and black-eyed peas at midnight - \$15 per person in advance, or \$20 per person at the door

Swinging Stars Holiday Party, Saturday, January 18th

Location: Rutledge Party Barn (Plano, TX)
Website: <http://www.swingingstars.org>
Time: Party – 6:00PM

*** * * SPECIAL WEEKEND DANCE OPPORTUNITIES * * ***

Rhythm Winter Festival, January 3-4

Location: Waco Convention Center (Hilton Waco, 113 S. University Parks Dr., Waco, TX)
Website: http://swingingstars.org/Winter_Festival_Flyer_2014.pdf
Callers: Dee Dee Dougherty, Mike Seastrom, Ken Bower, Gary Shoemake, Wade Driver, Marshall Flippo
Cuer: Mark Prow

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not already done so, the dues for the First quarter of 2014 will be coming due on January 1st. Swinging Stars dues are due the first dance of each quarter - January, April, July and October

You may bring your payment to our next dance or send you payment to the following:

John and Ann Barber
4905 Hackberry Lane
Parker, Texas 75002-5627
Treasurer@swingingstars.org
Dues are: \$35.00 per quarter per couple
\$70.00 per half year per couple
(Preferred) \$140.00 per year per couple

Please make your check payable to Swinging Stars

REFRESHMENTS DUTY AND INFORMATION

December 27	Holiday for Everyone
January 10	Reid, Lassiter, Rickert, Burson
January 31	Anniversary Dance - All Members
February 14	Covington, See, Ross, Schumacher
February 28	Starrett, Trujillo, Weckerly, Archey
March 14	Hawkins, Kilejian, Morse, Jung
March 28	Barber, Shinavar, Jimison, Lewis

*New Club Members - can be leaders after one year as club member

The lead couple should contact all members on the team to be sure they know the following:

- What they are going to bring for refreshments.
- Arrive at dance by 7:00 pm. As per our contract with PISD, we cannot enter the gym before 7:00 pm
- Enter thru the Gym door.
- Refreshments shut down at 9:30 pm (no earlier)
- If you take home a refreshment bag checks that it has all the items listed on the Florescent Hang Tag on the bag.
- Be sure all items are clean
- Repack bags in a Tidy Manner

Refreshment Duty Reminders:

If you have a conflict with the Refreshment Schedule

- Please contact someone on the refreshment list to trade with you.
- Notify the refreshment schedulers: Jeff & Anne Stuart at 972-699-1317 or email: jwstuart@flash.net with the names of your schedule changes.
- Attend the dance prior to your turn for refreshments and pick up the Four Bags. If unable to do so be sure that someone picks them up for you.
- Check refreshment Bags for the info regarding "Refreshment Duty Tips" and "List of Items Supplied by the Club".
- Contact **Mark & Karen Hawkins** at 972-436-4868 or 1stVP@swinginstars.org for supplies prior to purchasing by Monday prior to club dance. They may already have what you need.

Thank you all for serving on our Refreshment Team.

Upcoming Advertised Swinging Stars Theme Dances



January 31, 2014

Season II

Dancing with the Star



Sunday, January 26, 2014 – 11th Annual Singing Call & Round Dance of the Year @ Swingtime Center
Friday, January 31, 2014 – Swinging Stars 39th Anniversary Dance at All Saints Catholic Church

Themes:

February 14, 2014 - Valentine's Day Dance

Future Dates Reserved with NORTEX:

Friday, October 31, 2014 – Double Deal Halloween Dance (Fifth Friday)*

Saturday, January 31, 2015 – 40th Anniversary Dance (Fifth Saturday)

Saturday, October 31, 2015 – Double Deal Halloween Dance (Fifth Saturday)*

Saturday, January 30, 2016 – 41st Anniversary Dance (Fifth Saturday)

Saturday, October 29, 2016 – Double Deal Halloween Dance (Fifth Saturday)*

*provided these dates do not conflict with the NORTEX Round Up Dance weekend

Mark the dates on your calendar right now.....



63rd National Square Dance Convention®

June 25 - 28, 2014

Little Rock, Arkansas

Website: www.63nsdc.com & Facebook under the 63rd National Square Dance Convention®.

Round Up 2014 – October 17th, 18th and 19th.

For information about weekend dances go to our Web Page www.swingingstars.org and click on Weekends. Go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swinging-Stars-Square-Round-Dance-Club> - “like us,” view picture, post pictures, comments about anything what you enjoy about square dancing or a specific dance.

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

RICHARD & JAN COVINGTON

Swinging Stars, President

Email: president@swingingstars.org

Phones: (972) 325-1144