



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for February 2, 2014

Your Board Is Here To Serve You

Your new executive board is honored to serve you. The new club officers are Ralph and Lucy Hamm, President; George and Mary Loxsom, 1st Vice President; Ron and Donita See, 2nd Vice President; Tom and Vicki Evanto, Secretary; and Dan and Nina Lassiter, Treasurer. We will do our very best to make sure our club remains the vibrant, friendly, and fun organization we all love. This is YOUR club, and your input is important. If you have any suggestions for improving our club, please discuss them with any club officer.

Your outgoing board gave us an outstanding year. Thanks to their hard work and great leadership, we had the opportunity to dance several times every week, we have been one of the most active and friendliest square dance clubs anywhere, we have had several members in NORTEX offices and on NORTEX committees, and most importantly, we have brought 24 new members into the club. When you see Richard and Jan Covington, Mark and Karen Hawkins, Bob and Terri Pitts, Gene and Phyllis Deluke, and John and Ann Barber, thank them for their tremendous contributions to the Swinging Stars.

Happening This Week

Tuesday, February 4 – Bolero lessons

Friday, February 7 – Official visitation to Texas Reelers – see details under Coming Events below

Anniversary Dance Report

I want to personally thank you, Lorraine, Dave, Anne, Russ, Sondra, Mel, Bob & Terri for the fantastic jobs you did to bring about one of our most successful anniversary dances in recent years. Lorraine and Dave, you did a great job organizing everyone and covering all of the jobs that were vital to the success of our anniversary dance. Sondra and Mel, what a fantastic job on the decorations. Great job in directing/using all of the available help and assisting with the set up of all the decorations including the entry, fellowship hall, gym and stage. I don't think I have ever been to any event that was done as well. Bob and Terri, thank you for the facilities and all of the work you put into assembling the stage and the set up of the tables, chairs, etc. Anne and Russ, very fine job on the management of the salads and desserts. It appeared that everyone ate their fill and then some. Great job to everyone that put in time and volunteered their time, muscle and energy preparing salads, desserts, putting up the stage, decorations, taking down, cleaning up and reorganizing the fellowship hall. It was truly a club effort. Thank you all.

Kudos to Wayne, Jodi, Brad, Paula, Walter and Eula for the terrifically fantastic job of providing the dance entertainment. You were all great. Thanks.

Finally, Anne & Jeff, thank you for hosting the after-party. We, I believe that I speak for everyone, had a great time.

Only one observation, the official count was a little off... we count from the sign-in sheet and if people forget to sign in (he thinks she signed in and she thinks he signed in). However, I had several clubs mention to me that they had two, three or more members than what I announced. One of the Texas Reelers called and indicated that we had announced that they had 25 in attendance but in the picture they took, which did not include everyone, they counted 31. So, we had more in attendance than the official 241, and I would say that it was all very successful.

One last comment: Jan and I have truly enjoyed being your Presidents. Your willingness to help and be involved in all of the activities, refreshments and special dances made it easy on us. Your willingness to participate in our theme dances, from Area 51 to Boot Scooting to Dancing with the Stars Season II, is greatly appreciated. Our club is what you make it. Join a square and make a friend.

Richard Covington



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We just can't say it enough!

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the help everyone gave us in planning and carrying out the experience of having this year's anniversary dance. You all are the most wonderful friends and we love you. Thank you to each and every one of you for giving your time and talents to help make our 39th anniversary successful.

Thank you Wayne, Jodie, Walter and Eula. We love you and hope you will be calling and cueing for us for many more anniversary dances to come. You guys are the greatest. You actually make the dance a wonderful happening.

Set Up and Clean Up

Unknown to most, Bob and Terry Pitts spent several hours earlier in the day, getting the hall ready for us to decorate. They went to the church and found that they would need to construct the stage, and they moved the tables, chairs etc. to suit our needs. We are grateful for all they did to secure the All Saints Church with its beautiful hall for our anniversary dance. Thank you. You two ROCK!

Decorations

Mel and Sondra Foust went way beyond our expectations. They spent many hours preparing all the beautiful and spectacular decorations. Their decorations created an atmosphere that set the stage for excitement that had everyone in the mood to have fun. And we did.

Food Service

Russ and Anne Nejdil are experts at this part of the dance committee. They know just how to organize their help and get all the food out to be served in a timely manner. We appreciate you so very much.

Beverage Service

Charlie and Linda Harris are also well versed in organization and had no trouble carrying out their duties getting the drinks all set up and replenished with the help of their committee.

Registration

Led by our outgoing Treasurer, John and Anne Barber, everything went smoothly. They got all the guests and club members signed in, cards signed, and the biggest and most important part of all, collected the money. Fantastic job.

Honey Pot.

Thank you Mark and Marcy Sherman for chairing the Honey Pot committee. You two did an outstanding job of keeping the ticket sellers on the job.

Money Raffle

Barry and Helen Feldman are also great members that are always there to help. They chaired the Money Raffle and kept it going with the help of their ticket sellers. Good Job!

Greeters

I know there were more of you greeting the guests as they arrived than were actually scheduled to greet. Thank you to everyone that made our guests feel welcome.

Dave and I enjoyed chairing this year's anniversary dance because you all were so willing to help. You all made it so easy. You made us look good!

Thank you,
Dave and Lorraine Burson
2014 Anniversary Chairman

From Bob and Terri Pitts:

Terri and I appreciated the abundant help with the setup / takedown of the stage, chairs, and tables. We really appreciated the support from too many of the Swinging Stars to name, especially with the massive platform.

We are missing a small round orange plastic cake plate that was originally under a cinnamon creme cake. If you have any information on its whereabouts, please let Terri know. Thanks so much!

Announcements

Wayne Denton, a former Swinging Stars club member, is battling stage IV stomach cancer. He and Todd moved to the Houston area about a year ago to be near their children and for Wayne to start a new job. He has completed his first round of chemotherapy and is dealing with the side effects of the drugs. Please keep them in your prayers. If you wish to send a card, their address is:

22103 Marshaven Way
Richmond, TX 77407

Swinging Stars, we will be having a **cake raffle at our February 14th Valentine's Day Dance**. The proceeds will **benefit the Teen Scholarship Program**. Raffle tickets will be sold and the first winner drawn will have first choice of a cake, and so on. So the more cakes we have the more winners we'll have and, hopefully, the more tickets we will sell. **If you can donate a cake, call or email Mark and Karen Hawkins at 214-537-0446 or markt.karen@gmail.com**. You can also just bring your cake to the dance. We'll draw winners until we run out of cakes!

As you know, our club owns a Williams Sound transmitter that Wayne uses when he calls to enable dancers using corresponding portable receivers to better hear his calls as they dance. Our club now also owns one Williams Sound PPA-R37 receiver and one EAR-022 earpiece available for check out and use at our dances. If you'd like to try them at one of our dances, listen for a pre-dance announcement and/or see Jim Bondi.

Round Dance Lessons

A note from JL and Linda:

We had a great Bolero class Tuesday night at Carpenter. Three more new couples signed up during the week and filled the class to capacity. We now have a total of 16 couples taking Beginning Bolero. We've taught Bolero in a club setting before, but not as a full set of lessons -- and it's been a fantastic experience for us and for a new, never before danced, dancer. What we've found is that the slow side step which is the first step in a figure (two counts) helps everyone to think "oh, that's what comes next." Or that's our supposition. All we can say, is the class is doing better than any "first" class of instruction we have ever had.

We've had great feedback from our dancers about how much they are really enjoying the class, too. As any of you who have taken classes with us before know, JL always says it's about having fun first.

Stay tuned for further updates when we begin to move into doing some dances. Right now we are laying figure groundwork. Are they dancing -- of course they are -- to JL's wonderful H-A-S-H. Sure feels like dancing.

Linda and JL

* * * From Your 2nd VPs * * *

Our current Swinging Stars 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

Swinging Stars Banners Out

Club	Date Captured	Club	Date Captured
Buttons and Bows	1-Feb-14	Rebel Rousers	31-Jan-14
Cotton Pickin' Squares	23-Mar-13	Texas Reelers	31-Jan-14
Decatur 8'ers	5-Oct-13		
Log Cabin Swingers	4-May-13		
Lone Star Solos	28-Mar-13		
North Star 8	09-Feb-13		
Solitaires	04-Jan-14		
Texoma Squares	01-Jun-13		
Tri-City Promenaders	26-Jan-13		

*** * * Events from the Past Week * * ***

Friendship Plus, January 27th

18 Swinging Stars visited Friendship Plus in Richardson on Monday. Texas Hall of Fame caller, Mike Bramlett, in his patented form, provided 4+ squares of dancers an enjoyable and educational evening of plus square dancing. In the educational category, Mike offered repeated work-shopping on Crossfire from the common two-faced line starting configuration. To accommodate dancers needing help, he patiently walked all squares through the call while verbalizing the specific mechanics of the move. Most attendees were competent "Cross Fire"rs by evenings end and all attendees had a great time. Visiting Swinging Stars were Amys, Bondis, Brandens, Colters, Moshers, Rows, Sees, Smith/Hardin, and Underwoods. Thanks to Jim Bondi for sharing the dance details.

Plus 4's, January 29th

12 Swinging Stars visited Plus 4s in Farmers Branch on Wednesday. Veteran club caller Charles Quizenberry (affectionately known as "Quiz") was in top form as he directed an evening of plus square dancing filled with both learning and fun. "Learning" periods featured repeated training on Follow Your Neighbor (w or w/o a spread) from several different flavors of the starting box circulate configuration. Specific flavors included: both boys facing in (common), both girls facing in (unusual), and 1 boy & 1 girl facing in (unusual). Initial glazed looks gradually gave way to smiles as dancers got the hang of it. A "fun" and memorable moment occurred when Quiz, dancing to help fill out a square, lost hold of his portable microphone which hit the floor, ejected its batteries, and went dead. Dancers held their breaths, and feet, while Quiz, ever unflappable, quickly reassembled the mic and barked his next call. Swinging Stars present included Amys, Bondis, Bursons, Kilejians, Sees, and Shermans. Thanks to Jim Bondi for the dance news.

Lockheed Martin Recreation Association, January 30th

6 Swinging Stars participated in the "Farewell Dance" at Lockheed Martin Recreation Association (LMRA) in south Fort Worth on Thursday. Melton Luttrell architected a special evening by inviting fellow callers Jon Jones, Deborah Carroll-Jones, Vernon Jones, Barry Hendricks, Paul Kinsey, Rick Smith, and Tommy Farris together with cuer Jack von der Heide to help him bid this great dance venue a proper goodbye. More than 12 squares of dancers hooted and hollered all evening long in squares whose lively maneuvers were choreographed by each member of this world-class calling team. A few of the callers also treated attendees to riveting history lessons as they recanted what it was like to begin their calling careers at LMRA decades earlier as mere teenagers. Square dancers were given a special treat in the evening's last tip when all 8 callers took the stage simultaneously and sang "When the Saints Come Marching In." Swinging stars attending were Amys, Bondis, and Sees.

Thanks to Jim Bondi for sharing the dance details.

Official, Buttons and Bows, February 1st

18 Swinging Stars visited the Buttons and Bows Anniversary Dance in Irving on Saturday. Our own Texas Hall of Fame caller, Wayne Baldwin, and the Buttons and Bows club caller, Barry Hendricks provided dancers an enjoyable evening of square dancing, while Charles Crockett provided an hour of early round dancing along with cuing the rest of the evening. This was their club's 49th Anniversary and all who attended were glad to be there to help celebrate. We captured their banner and several swinging stars even came home with prizes. Visiting Swinging Stars were Amys, Archeys, Bondis, Esteps, Hamms, Kilejians, Pitts, Sees, and Sherrills.

* * * Coming Events * * *

Official, Texas Reelers, Friday, February 7th

Location: Richardson Senior Center (890 W. Arapaho, Richardson, TX)
Website: <http://www.texasreelers.org/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:30PM / grand march – 8:00PM
Callers: Vernon Jones
Cuer: Jack von der Heide
Notes: Stupid Cupid, Thanks for Pickin' on Me double deal dance

Swinging Stars, Friday, February 14th

Location: Shepard Elementary School (1000 Wilson Dr., Plano, TX)
Website: <http://www.swingingstars.org>
Time: Squares workshop – 7:00PM / grand march – 8:00PM
Callers: Wayne Baldwin
Cuer: Walter Brewer
Theme: Let Me Call You Sweetheart
Notes: club dance

Official, Rebel Rousers, Saturday, February 15th

Location: Richardson Senior Center (890 W. Arapaho, Richardson, TX)
Website: <http://www.RebelRousersDallas.com/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:30PM / grand march – 8:00PM
Callers: Mike Bramlett
Cuer: Christine Hickson
Notes: Double deal dance

Ladies Luncheon, Tuesday, February 18th

Location: Mimi's (Allen, TX)
Website: <http://www.mimiscafe.com/>
Time: 11:30pm
Hostess: Lorraine Burson (Lorraine@bursons.us or 972-396-0941)

Of Interest, Kissin Kuzzins, February 21st

Location: Garland Sr. Activity Center (600 Avenue A, Garland, TX)
Time: Dance – 7:00PM
Callers: Wayne Baldwin
Cuers: J.L. Pelton
Theme: Cupid's Delight

Refreshments Duty and Information

February 14	Covington, See, Ross, Schumacher
February 28	Starrett, Trujillo, Rose, Archey
March 14	Hawkins, Kilejian, Morse, Jung
March 28, 2014	Barber, Shinavar, Jimison, Colter
April 11, 2014	Bondi, Maier, Lewis, Sobotka
April 25, 2014	Kendrick, Ryder, Piziali, Anthaume

Thank you all for serving on our Refreshment Team.

Upcoming Advertised Swinging Stars Theme Dances



February 14, 2014

Teen Scholarship

Let Me Call You Sweetheart Dance

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

June 25 - 28, 2014 – 63rd National Square Dance Convention, Little Rock, AR – see www.63nsdc.com for info

October 17 – 19, 2014 – NORTEX Round Up

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

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

*provided date does not conflict with the NORTEX Round Up Dance weekend

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 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@swingingsstars.org

Phone: 214-872-7219