



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for February 17, 2013

Congratulations, we have been told that Swinging Stars is becoming known as the club “that visits”. As you know we had 299 in attendance at our anniversary dance and all of the banners we had were reclaimed (with the exception of two that we have had for years). One of those banners that was reclaimed, Tri-City Promenaders, was re-captured the very next night with 10 Swinging Stars in attendance. We finished our anniversary weekend with a good showing on Sunday at the NTCA Singing Call/Round Dance of the Year Dance with 27 Swinging Stars attending. The next Friday following, as I am sure you recall, we had 47 Swinging Stars show up to reclaim the Texas Reelers banner and we had 33 at the Button N Bows anniversary Dance on that Saturday night capturing their banner as well and the list goes on... Thursday night 7 SS at Roadrunners, Saturday night -10 SS at Dixie Chainers and 8 SS at North Star 8 in Paris.... It continued this weekend as you will see in Bob and Terri’s report in this newsletter. Great Job!!!

A little boy was overheard praying:

'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it.
I'm having a real good time like I am.'

Now that is cute, I don’t care who you are. I hope that we are all striving to become better than we are. In sports our coaches would tell us, if you’re not moving forward, improving, you are moving backward and I have always found that this translates to everything in life. I am thrilled to see all of our Swinging Stars out dancing and visiting other clubs, as that means you are working to improve yourself. You know how much fun it is to be out socializing and enjoying our favorite pass time. The plain truth is, no matter why you are out there dancing, the more you dance, the better you get and the better you get the better you feel - not just physically but emotionally.

Jan and I have danced a total of nine years and in that period of time we have been through mainstream lessons approximately 20 times. Okay, once to learn, once to refresh (after a 28 year layoff) and 18 times as angels. Many of you have done it much more than that. Why, because we want to share our love for dancing with others and build friendships. We have Swinging Stars students taking lessons right now with the Rebel Rousers on Tuesday night at the Richardson Senior Citizens Center with a good group of Swinging Stars “angeling.” The students have noticed and have expressed their appreciation for the support. If you have not met them, go by Tuesday at 7:00 to introduce yourself. You will easily recognize them as they are the best students on-the-floor.

NORTEX NEWS

The Nominating Committee Foreman, Dave Burson, reported the 2013-2014 slate of officers selected by the Nominating Committee for delegate approval at the April 21st Quarterly Business Meeting.

“Formula 51”

North Texas Caller's Association, NTCA, met again Sunday at Cedar Park for another training session in order to prepare for the “Formula 51” dances. They plan to have a good program at each of their dances. I hope that you plan to step up to the challenge as the choreography will be interesting and challenging. Trust me, you haven't seen it all.

"Formula 51," as proposed by NORTEX, is a program to integrate new students into the club dance environment as early as possible. These dances will be called using only the basic list - the first 51 calls from the mainstream list. The intent is to offer fun and creative choreography for all dancers over the material covered during the first three-fourths of mainstream lessons.



Swinging Stars will offer “Formula 51” dances during the month of April on the 12th and 26th. These dances will be great for our current students. The dance on the 26th will be "Out of this World."

NTCA

The new slate of officers for North Texas Callers Association is as follows:

President:	Charles Crockett
Vice President:	Walt Helgeson
Secretary:	Jimmy Ellis
Treasurer:	Paul Kinsey
Past President:	Walter Brewer

Our very own Cuer, Walter Brewer, did a great job a President and now serves as the Past President. Good job ~~BIG JOHN~~, hum, I mean, Walter. We appreciate all that NTCA does for square and round dancing.

NEED YOUR INPUT

Wanted: I need your thoughts as to talented people in our club willing to fill the following positions:

Chaplain
Photographer

Who would you like to see call our 2014 Anniversary Dance? It is your dance, Make It Everything It Can Be... Send me an email with your thoughts and recommendations.

I had a great idea, set up a Facebook page, and I did, the new site is Swinging Stars Square & Round Dance Club. Thought it was original but after I set it up I found that someone within our club beat me to it. I discovered a Facebook page by the name of Swinging Stars Square and Round Dance Club of Plano (very similar name) had been set up in 2011. Great minds think alike, right. If you created this page, please contact me as I would like to merge the two. Facebook can be an area that we can gather a lot of exposure by posting pictures and commenting on the fun that we have as a group. If you want an idea of how this could look take a look at the Facebook page of “Swinging Star's Square Dance Club in Wichita Falls, Tx” or “Silver Wings Dance” or “[Traildusters Square Dance](#)”.

Please send me an email – President@SwingingStars.org – in regard to any and all of the above.

SWINGING STARS JACKETS

You have seen some of our members wearing these nifty Blue Jackets with Gold Lettering and some of you have asked where we got them and whether we can get some more. Well....we are in luck. Note the following details & pricing:

- A) Satin jacket, kasha lined (as before) with (2) slash pockets
- B) Color: solid royal blue shell, knit collar & cuffs
- C) Embroidery left chest with small logo and first name personalization
- D) The jacket manufacturer that they used in the past has discontinued satin jackets so they found a new source
- E) The following is predicated on (3) different quantity price breaks and includes sales tax - f.o.b. swinging stars

	<u>15 units</u>	<u>20 units</u>	<u>25 units</u>
Sm – XL	\$59.34 unit	\$58.89 unit	\$56.35 unit
2XL	\$62.32 unit	\$61.86 unit	\$61.35 unit

We need an order commitment of at least 15 jackets and they will bring samples in for people to try on for size. Otherwise, without an order of at least 15 jackets, we would incur a restocking fee and the cost of the incoming freight on the samples.

Please contact Mark & Karen Hawkins, First VP's [972-436-4868](tel:972-436-4868) or 1stVP@swingingstars.org to place your order – the size can be confirmed when they come out with samples – as soon as we have 15 units committed, we will arrange for the vendor to come to a club dance for sizing.

CALLER TRAINING

Six caller trainees, James Alexander of the Rebel Rousers, Richard Covington, Rick & Dorinda Maher and Joe Rose of Swinging Stars, Keith Malone of the Kissin Kussin's gathered at Jodi and Wayne Baldwin's on Sunday, February 10th. Wayne discussed learning modules and gave us each a list of modules to practice and he encouraged each of us to come up with their own. We all appreciate the dancers that came to help – Bob & Terri Pitt, Dave & Lorraine Burson, Shelia Alexander, S Rose and Jodi Baldwin. We all had a great time. We look to have a caller training once a month to practice and we may be calling to ask for your help.

EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK

T-Square Gadabouts – Friday, Feb 15th

A square's worth of Swinging Stars visited the T-Square Gadabouts at Swingtime Center in Ft. Worth. The dance was cued by Charles Crockett and called by Rick Smith. The theme was Mismatch Dance and the dancers were invited to dress mismatched – this presented quite the challenge for us matching square dancers. The Swinging Stars who attended were awarded the T-Square Gadabout's banner and included: Bursons, Lassiters, Pitts, and Rickerts.

Kissin' Kuzzins – Friday, Feb 15th

Meanwhile, a 2nd visitation of Swinging Stars occurred at the Kissin' Kuzzins dance in Garland. Cueing was provided by JL Pelton and the calling was done by our very own Wayne Baldwin. Our dancers enjoyed the bountiful and sincere hospitality of the Kissin' Kuzzins. The following 10 Swinging Stars retrieved our banner from the Kissin' Kuzzins: Bondis, Hamms, Smith / Hardin, Starretts, and Underwoods. Thanks to Ralph and Lucy Hamm for the details.

Rebel Rousers – Saturday, Feb 16th

The Black and White Ball Double Deal dance was very enjoyable and well attended by the Swinging Stars and other area clubs. Mike Bramlett did a Formula 51 duet with Dave Viera, and Drew Bramlett joined Mike for another duet at the end of the evening. Excellent cueing was provided by Christine Hixson. Theron and Pecan (aka Beernut), their dog, were also in attendance. The Rebel Rousers shared a great spread of sandwiches and desserts. The following 24 Swinging Stars attended and earned the Rebel Rousers banner: Bondis, Bursons, Covingtons, Evantos, Fousts, Giaudrone / Benedetto, Harris, Moshers, Pitts, Ramirez, Rickerts, and Smith / Hardin.

* * * SPECIAL CLUB OPPORTUNITIES * * *

Weekend Plus Dance – 30th Annual Texas Stampede Feb 22nd-24th

The 30th Annual Texas Stampede with headline callers Tony Oxendine and Jerry Storey and cuer Christine Hixson will be at the Sterling Hotel in Dallas (1055 Regal Row, Dallas). See the Swinging Stars weekend website page for more details.

Swinging Stars Bus Trip to Mineola Saturday, Mar 23rd

Reserve your seats to ensure our trip proceeds as planned – we currently have 20 paid dancers and need 50. We will make seats available to other area clubs after our next Swinging Stars dance Feb 22nd. Give your cash or check made payable to the Swinging Stars to the Covingtons or Barbers at the dance.

We are visiting the East Texas Square and Round Dance Association “**It's GOLDen East Texas – 50 Years of Square Dancing**” Festival in Mineola. We will leave Walmart at Spring Creek and I-75 in Plano at 8:00AM in a luxury coach for the 2 hour drive to Mineola and start the return trip about 10:30PM. An exciting day of dancing and fun is planned, including round and square dancing with hot hash and plus and an after party. Dave and Michelle Viera are the headline caller and cuer. Transportation is \$30 per person. Each dancer will be responsible for purchasing their lunch and dinner and the \$7 dance fee – that's right, only \$7. Our coach will drive us to historic downtown Mineola for lunch and shopping after the morning dancing. Dinner is planned near or at the civic center. Send Bob and Terri Pitts \$30 per person, first come first served, to secure your seats on the bus. Contact Bob or Terri at bobp8211@gmail.com if you have questions.

COMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2013

Ladies Luncheon – Tuesday, Feb 19th

Location: Chocolate Angel Café and Tearoom (635 W. Campbell, Richardson)
Website: www.chocolateangel.com
Time: 11:30AM
Host: Terri Pitts (972-392-4325 / tjtpitts@sbcglobal.net)
Notes: March luncheon is set for Neiman Marcus Mariposa restaurant – hostess Peggy Amy

Swinging Stars Club Dance – Friday, Feb 22nd

Location: Shepard Hill Elementary School
Times: Early rounds – 7:30PM / Dance – 8:00PM
Caller: Wayne Baldwin
Cuer: Walter Brewer
Notes: Mid Winter Dance

Dance of Interest – Saturday, Feb 23rd

Dance: [Tri-City Promenaders – President's Day Dance](#)
Location: Brookside Center (1244 Brookside Dr. Hurst)
Times: Early rounds – 7:00PM / Workshop – 7:30PM / Grand march – 8:00PM
Caller: Paul Kinsey
Cuer: Chris Farabaugh

Dance Opportunity – Sunday, Feb 24th

Dance: [Dance celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Dean and Cheryl Albrecht](#)
Location: Swingtime Center (5100 SE Loop 820 Ft. Worth)
Times: Early rounds – 2:30PM / Dance 3:00PM
Caller: Rick Smith
Cuer: Charles Crockett
Notes: Free admission, guests requested not to bring gifts

FRIENDSHIP DANCE

Friendship Dance with the Rockwall Squares is planned for 5/10/2013 at Shepard Elementary. We are making plans and will be sharing information soon.

MAINSTREAM LESSONS

The Swinging Stars have 3 or 4 couples that are taking lessons at the Richardson Senior Center. We are asking the Swinging Stars to volunteer to help angel these new students. Lessons are on Tuesdays at 7:00 and last till 9:00. Please contact Richard and Jan at president@swingingstars.org or 972-325-1144 to let them know if you would like to help angel.

ROUND DANCE LESSONS

The Swinging Stars will be sponsoring beginner round dance lessons with instructors JL and Linda Pelton at Carpenter Recreation Center. JL and Linda have instructed round dancing for several years and have a successful intermediate round dance club on Thursday nights at the Plano Senior Center. Lessons will begin Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00PM and continue each Tuesday night for eleven weeks. Our hope is to continue lessons through the year, teaching students all the rhythms commonly danced at square dances – cha, rumba, two step, waltz, foxtrot, and jive. The first class will teach cha and rumba. This will be a great opportunity for interested couples to enter the tremendously enjoyable activity of round dancing.

We need to get an idea of how many students to expect for the round dance lessons beginning on March 19. Please let Ralph and Lucy Hamm know that you plan to take lessons as soon as possible. Email: rehamm45@gmail.com; Phone: (214) 872-7219. Registration begins March 2 online at www.planoparks.org; in person at Carpenter Recreation Center, 6701 Coit Road; or by phone at (972) 208-8087. Course number is # 140236 CAR. For additional information, see the flyer on the Swinging Stars website: http://swingingstars.org/ChoreographedBallroom_LessonFlyer.pdf

Roundup Theme for 2013 "Celebrating Texas' Heritage - The Yellow Rose of Texas"



We are proud to have such good representation on the committee and we know you will do a superb job and we look forward to hearing more about your work on the Roundup Committee.

The feature caller will be Noah Sigman and the staff caller will be Vernon Jones (Wayne had previously booked a dance for the same weekend). The cuer will be JL Pelton. 2013 RoundUp will be held at the Grapevine Convention Center. Mark your calendars NOW for November 2 with the caller's cavalcade being held on November 1st. This will be a great week-end.

REFRESHMENTS DUTY AND INFORMATION

Lead couple is first name on the list.

February 22	Piziali, Ryder, Foust*, McGuire
March 8	Maier, Morse, Evanto, Kilejian*
March 22	Whipple, Humphrey, Row, Bivins
April 12	Stuart, Rose, Weigel, Pharr
April 26	Loven, Hursey, Harris, Hawkins

May 10 Carter, Hamm, McClure, Whitaker
May 24 Pitts, Feldman, DeLuke, Jung

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.
- Enter thru the Gym door.
- Refreshments shut down at 9:30 pm (no earlier).
- If you take home a refreshment bag check that it has all the items listed on the Fluorescent 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 to pick up the three 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@swingingstars.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.

Schedule of advertised Swinging Stars Theme Dances thru Mar. 2013



February 22, 2013

Mid Winter Dance

March 22, 2013



March Madness

Swinging Stars 39th Anniversary Dance is in the planning.
The date is set for 01/31/2014 at All Saints Catholic Church in Richardson, TX
(pending approval of the club)
Please mark your calendar – more news to follow....



Tuesday, March 19 Swinging Star Round Dance Lessons
Tuesday, June 11 Plus Lessons
Tuesday, August 27 Mainstream Lessons

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

A special thanks to Bob & Terri Pitts for keeping us informed of all of the dances, calendar and special events.

RICHARD & JAN COVINGTON
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