



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for March 31, 2013

Presidential Ramblings

What a very unusual weekend. Did you miss square dancing as much as I did? With the holiday weekend and this being the fifth Friday & Saturday of the month, there were no dances scheduled this weekend. Never fear, however, the Bursons being at the top of their game decided to have a Swinging Stars party. Dave & Loraine entertained 52 Swinging Stars in their home on Saturday night. If you missed it, you missed a good time visiting with friends. Thanks guys, you are true blue loyal Swinging Stars and we all appreciate you.

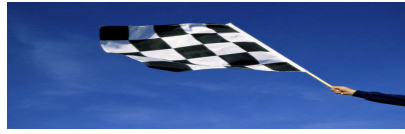
You realize that with this fifth Friday and the first Friday coming up, we will miss dancing our SS's dance two consecutive weeks. So, be sure to plan to make our Official Dance and the Dance of Interest this coming Friday and Saturday. Also, there will be a group of Swinging Stars making the trek to dance to Jerry Story's plus weekend in Tool, hosted by the Log Cabin Squares.

Speaking of plus weekends, there are several that are within easy driving distance of the Dallas/Ft. Worth area and a good number of Swinging Stars make one or more of these weekends each year. They are a lot of fun and a good time to get-a-way from the normal weekend chores. Some of these include the Rhythm Records weekend in January in Waco; the Jerry Story weekend with Log Cabins in Tool in April (as mentioned above); the July Stagecoach Round Up in Salado, TX; , Chaparral Records Annual Evening in Paris (mainstream, plus & advanced) and many others. Why, you might ask, do I mention these dances? These weekend plus dances have added a lot of enjoyment to our square dance experience. They give you a lot of plus work and plus work makes you a better dancer overall. I would like to see every Swinging Star be able to make one or more of these get-away-weekends. If you do not dance plus or if you dance plus but would like to improve your plus dancing skills, join our Plus Dances Lessons coming up June 11th at Carpenter Recreation Center in Plano with Wayne Baldwin. We hope to see you there.

Note: There is a new dancer/student dance on Monday, April 1st – No Fooling - at the Richardson Senior Center. It is \$6.00 per person and starts at 7:00. Hope you can make it.

Round Dance Lessons

We have five Swinging Stars couples taking Round Dance Lessons. These include Joe & Colby Whitaker, John & Ann Barber, Dave & Lorraine Burson, Bob & Terri Pitts and Richard & Jan Covington. JL & Linda Pelton continued to teach us the various Rumba steps including Spot Turn, Fence Line, Shoulder to Shoulder and Side Walks. We are looking forward to the next nine weeks.



“Formula 51”



As mentioned, "Formula 51" is finally here...our two April dances, 12th & 26nd are Formula 51 dances. This NORTEX program is intended to integrate new students into the club dance environment as early as possible. Current students have completed the “basic list” - the first 51 calls from the mainstream list. You have probably already experienced basic tips without knowing it as the callers have been practicing their choreography getting ready for the Formula 51 initiative. The intent is to offer fun and creative choreography for dancers of all levels.



Keys for making our Formula 51 dances a success – invite student dancers into your square. Remember when you were a new dancer coming to your first club dance – you were probably somewhat timid and maybe a little bit shy. They will have the tendency to want to dance with other students as they do not want to breakdown other squares. So, before we start squaring up find a new couple and ask them to dance with you. Try to only have one, not more than two, student couples in a square. If you see a student square forming, it might be too late, but “gently” try to split the square. When your square breaks down form lines and, just like he always does, Wayne will get you started as soon as he can.

Other things to remember, have a good time but remember the students learned to dance dosido “no tochie, back-to-back.” We will have plenty of time later to teach them the proper way (just kidding). Let’s be sure to show them our Swinging Stars hospitality and make them feel as a welcome guest.

SWINGING STARS JACKETS



Ralph Hamm modeling our Swinging Stars Jackets
(Sorry girls Ralph belongs to Lucy)

Note the following details & pricing:

Satin jacket - kasha lined (as before) with (2) slash pockets
Color - solid royal blue shell, knit collar & cuffs
Embroidery - left chest with small logo and **first name personalization**

Pricing: (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

Please contact Mark & Karen Hawkins, First VP's, **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. We have twelve committed and need three more. However, as I mentioned Friday night, we may have another vendor and twelve exceeds their minimum. The price has yet to be firmed up as they want to look at the stitching before giving us a final estimate.

* * * EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK * * *

Lone Star Solos, Thursday, Mar 28th

The Swinging Stars danced with the Lone Star Solos in Dallas on Thursday, Mar 28th, at their New Dancer Dance. Squares were called by Dave Vieira and rounds were cued by Christine Hixon. Dave adhered to the Formula 51 NORTEX directive using only the first 51 mainstream calls. Interesting combinations and a lively pace kept both seasoned dancers and students on their toes. The Swinging Stars in attendance brought home a Lone Star Solos banner and were the Bondis and the Sees.

*** * * SPECIAL CLUB OPPORTUNITIES * * ***

13th Annual Swing into Spring Plus Weekend with the Log Cabin Swingers, Apr 5-7th

Location: Promenade Hall (1210 N. Tool Highway 274, Tool, TX)
Website: <http://www.logcabinsquaredanceclub.com/swingintospring2013.pdf>
Caller: Jerry Story
Cuer: Walter Brewer
Notes: Breakfast Sunday morning

51st Annual Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival, June 6-9th

Location: San Marcos, TX
Website: http://www.squaredancetx.com/st_festival.html
Notes: Fun for beginners and advanced square and round dancers

62nd National Square Dance Convention, June 26-29th

Location: Oklahoma City, OK
Website: <http://www.62nsdc.com>
Notes: For beginners and advanced square and round dancers, national conventions don't get much closer than this!

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

Dance of Interest – Texas Reelers, Friday, Apr 5th

Location: Richardson Senior Center (820 W. Arapaho, Richardson, TX)
Website: <http://www.texasreelers.org/> (Note: website was down 24Mar)
Time: Early rounds – 7:30PM / Grand march – 8:00PM
Caller: Ray Savell
Cuer: Jack von der Heide
Theme: Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Dance of Interest – Solitaires, Saturday, Apr 6th

Location: Chapel Hill United Methodist Church (12411 Templeton Trail, Farmers Branch, TX)
Website: <http://www.solitaires1.com/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / Grand march – 7:45PM
Caller: Rick Smith (guest caller)
Cuer: JL Pelton
Theme: The Tax Man Cometh
Notes: New dancer dance

Swinging Stars Club Dance – Swinging Stars, Friday, Apr 12th

Location: Shepard Elementary School (1000 Wilson Dr., Plano, TX)
Website: <http://swingingstars.org/>
Time: Workshop – 7:30PM / Dance – 8:00PM
Caller: Wayne Baldwin
Cuer: Walter Brewer
Notes: This is a Formula 51 dance

Official – Dixie Chainers, Friday, Apr 13th

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 and Daryl Libscomb
Cuer: Jack von der Heide
Theme: Annual Luau Dance (double deal)

Ladies Luncheon – Thursday, Wednesday, Apr 25th

Location: Into My Garden Tearoom
Historic downtown Plano – 1017 East 15th Street
(inside Nooks and Krannies)
Website: www.intomygarden.com
Time: 11:30AM
Hostess: Lorraine Burson (Lorraine@bursons.us / 972.396-0941)
Notes: Let Lorraine know by Tuesday, Apr 23rd if you plan to attend. This is a wonderful tearoom with delicious items on their menu. Menu, map and parking links are available

FRIENDSHIP DANCE

Friendship Dance with the Rockwall Squares is planned for May10, 2013 at Shepard Elementary. We are making plans and will be sharing information soon.

MAINSTREAM LESSONS

We have had a number of Swinging Stars volunteer to help angel these new students however, some of our regular angels are taking Round Dance Lessons. So if you have an opportunity, go by and introduce yourselves to James & Kendra Branden, Jeffrey & Terri Urban, Steve & Mary Beth Sunderhaus and Don & Jeanne Denzin. There may be others but these are the ones I know. Tell them how happy we are that they are going to be Swinging Stars. Lessons are on Tuesdays at 7:00 and last till 9:00.

REFRESHMENTS DUTY AND INFORMATION

April 12	Stuart, Feldman, Shinavar, Bivins
April 26	Loven, Hursey, Hamm, Carter
May 10	Hawkins, Harris, McClure, Whitaker
May 24	Pitts, Rose, 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 May 2013

April 26, 2013



Area 51

May 10, 2013



Fiesta Friendship

Swinging Stars 39th Anniversary Dance
 January 31, 2014
 Brad Caldwell & Wayne Baldwin Calling
 Walter Brewer Cueing
 Chairpersons Dave & Lorraine Burson
 All Saints Catholic Church in Richardson, TX



Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 PM – Club Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ on Hwy 75

Tuesday, June 11 Plus Lessons at Carpenter Rec. Center in Plano

Tuesday, August 27 Mainstream Lessons at Carpenter Rec. Center in Plano

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

RICHARD & JAN COVINGTON

Swinging Stars, President

Email: president@swingingstars.org

Phones: (972) 325-1144