



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for April 7, 2013

Presidential Ramblings

Fantastic, tremendous, exhilarating Plus weekend in Tool with the Log Cabin Swingers. We had such a great time and I wish that all of you could have been there. This is an annual weekend with Jerry Story at the Promenade Dance Hall in Tool, TX – about 1 hour from Dallas. Most of us go down and spend the weekend at one of the local hotels; others bring their campers as they have camping right on the property with hook ups all for about \$25 a night. However, if you prefer sleeping in your own bed, it is close enough to drive down each day. Nevertheless, we forget about the rat-race of life and enjoy square and round dancing with dancers from all over. We danced and visited with people from Lockton, OK; The Woodlands; Waco and of course from almost all of the clubs in the NORTEX area. Best of all, we got to spend time with our some of our Swinging Stars family. I hope that each of you are planning to take plus lessons soon so that you can join us next year. Of course, Wayne will be giving Plus lessons starting June 11th for those starting plus and for those that want to relearn and sharpen their plus dancing.

Plus dancing makes you a better dancer. The more you dance the better you become, the better you become, the better you feel. So, make a plan, sign up, and commit to taking lessons.

The round dancing was also a big part of the weekend. Walter Brewer taught a rumba dance to “Simply the Best” as well as two other workshops. Bob & Terri Pitts and Jan and I participated in the rumba workshop. It was fun.

Mainstream lessons are just a few months away. Really, I am not crazy; August 27th is just around the corner. Only four months and three weeks away. Nevertheless, we need to be thinking about our lessons and future students. Since we know the when, let’s start thinking about what, who and why of square dancing. First, ask yourself what attracted you to square dancing? Or maybe it was “a” who.... But we all have our personal reasons as to why.

We all have our reasons and the key is that they are our reasons - reasons that matter to us individually. We all make decisions based on what we are going to get out-of our efforts individually. I would suggest rather than trying to recruit or get someone to join, share with them your why. We love square dancing because.... fill-in the blank and then share it with your friends, family, co-workers, acquaintances, the lady next to you at the check-out stand or the guy sitting next to you in the barber’s shop. Don’t recruit because then it is about you – share your why so that they can see how it will benefit them.

Round Dance Lessons

We have ten (not five) Swinging Stars couples taking Round Dance Lessons. These include Gene and Phyllis DeLuke, Eddie and Marilyn Gifford, Kenneth and Sally Henneberger, Jerry and Joni McClure, and Joe and Sandre Rose, Joe & Colby Whitaker, John & Ann Barber, Dave & Lorraine Burson, Bob & Terri Pitts and Richard & Jan Covington. (Sorry guys). Eight more weeks, wow, this is really going fast.



“Formula 51”



This Friday, April 12th will be the first of our two "Formula 51" dances. The “basic list” is 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 dance 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 if not frightened. They do not want to mess up and embarrass themselves or upset the experienced dancers. So, they will have the tendency to dance with other students. Grab a student couple and three experienced and form a square. Try to only have one, not more than two, student couples in a 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 touchy, 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.

Finally, as you know, there are lots of Formula 51 dances this month. Call up one of our student couples and invite them to join you to one or more Formula 51 dances. These dances are to help them integrate into the club dances. They are more apt to go if a SS member invites them to go along.

SWINGING STARS JACKETS

It looks like we only have 12 members interested in jackets. The vendor we have used in the past requires 15 min order. Jeff Stuart is checking to see if there is any wiggle room with the 15 minimum jackets from our original vendor. If so our current order of 12 jackets could increase in the cost.

The second vendor does not have a 15 jacket minimum and she has seen the photos of the jacket and says she can get the same color. Note, the maker of the original material/jackets is no longer supplying the material. So, regardless of which vendor we use the jackets could be a slightly different. However, the second vendor does not have jackets for us to try on so we would be estimating our own sizes.



Ralph Hamm modeling our Swinging Stars

Given all of this, we need your feedback and we hope to have additional information by this Friday's dance. If you have indicated that you would want a jacket, please email me and Mark Hawkins your thoughts and/or preference of which way to go.

If you want a jacket, please contact Mark & Karen Hawkins, First VP's, [972-436-4868](tel:972-436-4868) or 1stVP@swingingstars.org to place your order. 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.

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

As you can see in the next session of this newsletter the Swinging Stars were out and about this past weekend visiting many area clubs. This explains why you may hear the Swinging Stars referred to as “the club that visits”. Terri and I have heard this several times. Isn’t it fun! And April is a busy month with plenty of opportunities for visitations.

Reminder – if two or more couples visit other clubs send your 2nd VPs (2ndVP@SwingingStars.org) a note with the dance details so we can include them in the weekly newsletter. Generally, if we have to miss a dance of interest or official dance, we will try to contact another couple to try to capture the details for us. And it is working well – THANKS TEAM.

*** * * EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK * * ***

ADD+, Monday, Apr 1st

Monday, April 1st, ADD+ sponsored a Formula 51 dance called by Mike Bramlett at the Richardson Senior Center. As usual, Mike challenged the dancers with unusual and challenging choreography. The 12 Swinging Stars in attendance included the: Bondis, Covingtons, Fousts, Kilejians, Rows, and Sees. The Swinging Stars students Jeanne and Don Denzin were also at the dance. Thanks to the Covingtons and Rows for dance details.

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

The Swinging Stars danced with the Texas Reelers on Friday, Apr 5th, at the Richardson Senior Center at the "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" dance. There were plenty of dancers in Rangers and Rough Riders attire. Squares were called by Ray Savell (with his wife providing an occasional duet) and rounds were cued by Jack von der Heide. Ray followed the Formula 51 directive but also added an interesting progressive call to scatter all couples to find another square; it was organized mayhem. The 12 Swinging Stars in attendance brought home a Texas Reelers banner and included the: Archeys, Bondis, Harrises, Hawkinses, Pharrs, and Sees. Thanks to the Sees and the Bondis for providing dance details.

Dance of Interest – Solitaires, Saturday, Apr 6th

Saturday, Apr 6th the Swinging Stars visited the Solitaires at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Farmers Branch. The theme was "The Tax Man Cometh". Many dancers showed up late due to traffic because of an accident on LBJ/635. Squares were called by Rick Smith and rounds were cued by JL Pelton. This was a new dancer dance and that followed the NORTEX Formula 51 format. The Swinging Stars in attendance included the: Barbers, Ramirezes, and Sees. Thanks to the Sees and Barbers for sending dance updates.

Buttons and Bows, Saturday, Apr 6th

2 Swinging Stars couples visited the Buttons and Bows in Irving on Saturday, Apr 6th. Rounds were cued by Charles Crockett. Square dancing maneuvers restricted to the Formula 51 subset were called by Barry Hendricks. A few new dancers along with many seasoned dancers all enjoyed the evening. The Bondis and the Kilejians represented the Swinging Stars at the dance. Thanks to the Bondis for the dance report.

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

Even though the Spring Plus Weekend was almost 75 miles from our normal club dance location 18 Swinging Stars made the trek for this wonderful weekend of high energy dancing. There were square and round dances or workshops Friday evening, Saturday morning, afternoon, and evening, and Sunday morning. The squares and DBD workshops were called by the internationally renowned caller, Jerry Storey. Rounds were cued expertly

by our very own cuer, Walter Brewer. Walter also led some fun waltz and rumba teaches on Saturday. The Log Cabin Swingers were excellent hosts providing baked potato and fixings for the Saturday after party and a flapjack breakfast Sunday morning. The Swinging Stars who attended the Plus Weekend included: Amys, Bursons, Covingtons, Lewises, Perrotts, Pittses, Smith / Hardin, Starretts, and the Trujillos.

* * * SPECIAL DANCE OPPORTUNITIES * * *

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 * * *

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, Saturday, 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)

Notes: We have their banner

Official – Yellow Rockers, Thursday, Apr 18th

Location: Chapel Hill United Methodist Church (12411 Templeton Trail, Farmers Branch, TX)

Website: <http://www.yellowrockers.com/>

Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / Grand march – 7:30PM

Caller: Ray Stenger

Cuer: Chris Farabaugh

Notes: 45th anniversary dance (double signature), banner raid

Official – Kissin' Kuzzins, Friday, Apr 19th

Location: Garland Activity Center (600 Avenue A, Garland, TX)
Website: <http://www.kissinkuzzins.org/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / Starting gate – 8:00PM
Caller: Wayne Baldwin
Cuer: JL Pelton
Theme: Kentucky Donkey Derby – hat contest
Notes: 40th anniversary dance (double signature), we have their banner

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

I understand that the students only have about six weeks left, six lessons, and they will receive their official dancing license. Give your encouragement to James & Kendra Branden, Jeffrey & Terri Urban, Steve & Mary Beth Sunderhaus and Don & Jeanne Denzin. Thank you to our Swinging Stars Angles Mel & Sondra Foust, Jim & Knardi Bondi, Ron & Donita See, Harry & Zari Kilejian and Roger & Janelle Row. Lessons are at the Richardson Senior Citizens Center 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



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

Friday, January 31, 2014 – Swinging Stars 39th Anniversary Dance at All Saints Catholic Church

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

RICHARD & JAN COVINGTON

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