



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for April 14, 2013

Presidential Ramblings

Our Formula 51 dance Friday night was a success. Wayne did his usual great job calling a variety of songs with a professional flair matched by few callers. He used very interesting and challenging choreography and kept us moving in spite of only having the basic list at his disposal. We had 13 square dance students in attendance. Yea!!! This included a number of students that we hope will become Swinging Stars. Kissin' Kuzzin's came with 12 members and took our banner. There is some confusion about a lost banner – we supposedly have their banner but could not locate it. If you happen to know the whereabouts please call Bob or Terri Pitts. In addition to good attendance from the Kuzzin's, Students and seventy-nine Swinging Stars, we had a couple from Maryland. They lived in Plano and danced with Wayne back in the 80's.

Walter gave all of the Round Dance students an opportunity to dance two tips, four songs. Great job students! He says that we all did well. Walter cued to the experienced Round Dance group as well and had a lot of participation. We, Round Dancers and Square Dancers alike, all had a great time.

I witnessed a couple of mentionable honorable jesters Friday night. First tip we had a square in the back that was made up of five students and three experienced dancers and understandably they were struggling. We had an experienced couple from the square next to it swap with one of the student couples. As a result both squares were able to “keep-it-together” and enjoy a successful tip. Now it was from across the room and I was trying to dance but I believe the couple was Chuck and Nancy Morse. I want to say bravo!!! Thank you for caring about these new dancers. The other incident that I wanted to mention was where we had a square of dancers and there were several visitors sitting-out but not enough to form a square. Bob and Terri Pitts gratuitously offered their spot in the square to one of the visiting couples. Neither of these couples expect a thank you, but they are a great example to all of us.

Your executive board would like to adopt a new a tradition of assigning a “host” couple to a visiting couple when they walk in the door. The “host” couple would then invite the visiting couple to dance the first tip. So, when you arrive at the dance, tell the treasure or one of the greeters that you are available and they will direct a visiting couple(s) to you. This is your opportunity to make the visiting couple feel welcome.

You will note that we have Plus lessons coming June 11th. I hope that you plan to sign up for Plus lessons at the Carpenter Rec Center in Plano on Tuesday nights with Wayne Baldwin. Some reasons for taking Plus lessons can include learning the Plus calls or to improve your ability to dance Plus.

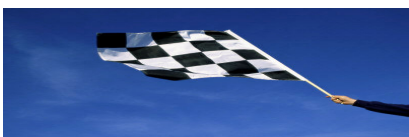
Mainstream lessons are just a few months away. August 27th is just around the corner. A good way to attract new Square Dance students is by telling them about all of the friends that you have made through square dancing and the fun we all have doing it. You will note that the women tend to be more interested but we find after the guys get involved, they love it too, don't we.



The second installment of our Formula 51 dance is April 26th and it will be our “AREA 51” dance or we could have called it “REMEMBER ROSWELL”. So, Linda, you can come dressed as your favorite Alien in two weeks. I hear we will have a celebrity or two that may drop in. You will have to be there to find out.

Costume ideas could be any of your favorite space travelers and/or space creatures or both. I encourage you to use your creativeness – come as a member of the Star Ship enterprise, as a character from Lost In Space or maybe a member of Star Wars series... I would love to see someone come as Chewbacca or Princess Leia, Will Robinson, Spock or Lieutenant Lahore.

See if you agree with me, John and Ann Barber have the best idea for a costume that I have heard of... they plan to come as Andy and Debbie Piziali. No kidding, when you see John and Ann, you will truly think they are Andy and Debbie. Their costumes are perfect replicas of the real Piziali's. You will have to come to see for yourselves. Andy and Debbie will be there incognito.



“Formula 51”



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.

NOMINATIONS

Our club by-laws require that officers be nominated and re-elected after the first six months. The nominations committee remained unchanged with Vickie Evanto, Jack Duncan, Louise Duncan, Peggy Amy and Fran Bivins. The nominees are as follows:

President: Richard & Jan Covington

1st Vice President: Mark & Karen Hawkins

2nd Vice President: Bob & Terri Pitts

Treasure: John & Ann Barber

Secretary: Gene & Phyllis Deluke

Please note the time change of the meeting:

Sunday, May 5 at 4:00 PM – Club Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ on Hwy 75

Estimated Time: 1 hour

Re-election of officers, Vote on By-law change, Board Member Reports, Old & New Business

SWINGING STARS OFFICIAL DRESS

Our official colors will continue to be Aqua, Purple, or Royal Blue. However, the company that was making our Aqua skirts and tops will no longer be able to offer that option. Their supplier no longer is able to provide the material. With that being said, we formed a committee and are researching options for adding an additional club skirt and top. We will continue to wear each of our three colors as a group when we go out visiting based on the calendar submitted by our 2nd Vice Presidents. Matching Purple and Royal Blue shirts may be found through Mondiki or other companies. Aqua or a close match might be found through other dancewear providers.

We would like our new outfit to be a blend of maybe 1-2 of the colors so it would be within our color scheme. If you would like to provide input please contact one or more of the committee members - Lorraine Burson, Terri Pitts, Sondra Foust, or myself. We want dancers to be able to choose a “Poofy” outfit or a longer skirt. We will keep you updated.

Thanks so much.

Jan Covington

SWINGING STARS JACKETS

It looks like we 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.

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.

*** * * Note from Your 2nd VPs * * ***

While March was a light visitation month due to no dances during Easter Weekend and some folks traveling during Spring Break, it will be more than made up for in April. In fact, this week there are 2 official visitations, one dance of interest, and a NORTEX quarterly meeting. There are opportunities for you to wear club colors this week if you have them (if you don't have club colors wear what you would normally wear). The Texas Reelers have canceled their dance April 19th – while this was not a planned visitation, we are making you aware.

If you plan to attend the State Festival in San Marcos June 06-09 discounted registration is available until May 15th. You can register and pay via PayPal at: http://www.squaredancetx.com/fest_reg_order.html. Similarly, discounted registration is available thru April 30th for the National Convention June 26-29. Both of these festivals offer exciting venues for both new and seasoned square and round dancers. Send us a note (2ndVP@SwingingStars.org) if you plan to attend either of these dances.

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.

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

Official Visitation – Dixie Chainers, Saturday, Apr 13th

Several Swinging Stars went to Farmers Branch Saturday evening Dixie Chainers' 52nd annual luau dance. The rounds were cued by Jack von der Heide while the squares were called by club caller, Vernon Jones, and guest caller, Darryl Lipscomb. Jack targeted several of his selections toward the island theme. Vernon and Darryl were decked out in biking garb and challenged the dancers with a few fast paced tips that were a lot of fun. As usual the Chainers decorated their hall quite nicely for their luau and had great vittles for their guests. The Swinging Stars who attended included: P. Amy, Archeys, Bondis, Bursons, Covingtons, Fousts, Maiers, Pittses, Ramirez, Rows, Sees, and Smith / Hardin and the Brandens who are mainstream students.

*** * * 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 * * *

Official Visitation – 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, wear royal blue if you have it

Official Visitation – 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), banner raid – let's get ours back and take theirs, wear aqua if you have it

Dance of Interest – Trail Blazers, Saturday, Apr 20th

Location: Swingtime Center (5100 SE Loop 820, Ft. Worth, TX)
Website: n/a
Time: Plus rounds – 6:30PM / Square workshop – 7:30PM / Grand march – 8:00PM
Caller: Bobby Willis
Cuer: Jack Kenny
Theme: April Showers Brings May Flowers
Notes: We need their banner

Ladies Luncheon – Thursday, 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 on their website.

Swinging Stars Club Dance – Friday, Apr 26th

Location: Shepard Elementary School (1000 Wilson Dr., Plano, TX)
Website: www.swingingstars.org
Time: Early rounds – 7:30PM / Dance – 8:00PM
Caller: Wayne Baldwin
Cuer: Walter Brewer
Theme: Entering Area 51
Notes: NORTEX Formula 51 dance

Dance of Interest – Tri-City Promenaders, Saturday, Apr 27th

Location: Brookside Center (1244 Brookside Drive, Hurst, TX)
Website: <http://www.tricitypromenaders.com/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / Grand march – 8:00PM
Callers: Paul Kinsey and Toby Thomason
Cuer: Chris Farabaugh
Theme: Gospel Singing Dance
Notes: We already have their banner

Harvest Holidays Round Dance Mini-Fest, Sunday, Apr 28th

Location: Swingtime Center (5100 SE Loop 820, Ft. Worth, TX)
Website: <http://www.harvestholiday.com/>
Time: Teaches – 2:00-5:00PM / Early rounds – 6:30PM / Dance – 7:00PM
Callers: N/A
Teachers: Karen Gloodt and JL Pelton
Cuer: Christine Hixson
Notes: Round dance only – phases II-IV

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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not already done so, the dues for the first quarter of 2013 are due. Swinging Stars dues are due the first dance of each quarter - January, April, July and October. If you are not sure whether your dues have been paid, please contact the John and Ann.

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

John and Anne 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

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 **4:00 PM** – Club Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ on Hwy 75

Re-election of officers, Vote on By-law change, Board Member Reports, Old & New Business

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

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

May 4th, Class # 140245

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

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

Swinging Stars, President

Email: president@swingingsstars.org

Phones: (972) 325-1144