Newsletter for August 4, 2013

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

Yesterday your Swinging Stars Executive Board met to review the state of the club, discuss a number of issues and to review and complete plans for the next few months. It seems, in a nut shell, everything is running smoothly and that we are financially sound. We continue to grow and add new members while maintaining our longterm membership and that has helped our finances continue to be solid. There are about fifteen to twenty couples visiting other clubs on a regular basis and 99 of our members have participated in visiting at least one of the "Official" or "Of Interest" dances. In addition to these we have members regularly attending "Special Weekend" dances which have included the State SD Convention and the National SD Convention. After returning all of the duplicate banners that we held, we have 17 banners from other clubs and none of our banners are held by other clubs. On the down side, we have had fewer visitors than last year at this time. It is felt that there are a number of factors that may have had an impact on this situation. The primary cause has been that our dance hall has been hot in the summer months in past years – thanks to the Harris's diligent work with PISD this year has been much better.

The themes that we have planned for the remainder of the year will help to attract visitors and maximize the enjoyment of our dances. August 9th we have our Open House and we have invited our family, friends and neighbors to come check out our favorite pastime. We have been told by two of our sister clubs, TX Reelers and Kissin' Kuzzin's, that they plan to bring a group to this dance. Plus we have been advised that NORTEX officers plan to come to the dance as their Pre-Round Up visit. August 23rd we have our "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" theme so plan to wear your Ranger (or favorite team) gear. September we have our "Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff" (always a community favorite) and October we have our "Boot Scootin' Show Your Colors Ball." The later is our Double Deal Dance and is just prior to Round-Up. These will be followed by our "Shake Your Tail Feathers Dance" for Thanksgiving and our "Toys & Books for Kids Holiday Ball" in December. You will note that contrary to previous years we will have two dances in Thanksgiving as our second dance is November 22 and Thanksgiving is the following Thursday, November 28th.

Richard and Jan

NATIONAL SPOT LIGHT

Plans are underway for the 63^{rd} National Square Dance Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas on June 25 - 28, 2014. Note the following excerpt of an article:



63rd National Square Dance Convention® June 25 - 28, 2014 Little Rock, Arkansas

Welcome to Little Rock!!! We are so excited to be hosting the 63rd National Square Dance Convention® in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Committees are hard at work organizing activities and planning everything for your enjoyment during your visit to our wonderful state.

We are working with Little Rock Tours and have some great tours for you to choose from: The Little Rock Tour, Digging for Diamonds, Branson, Hot Springs, Garvan Gar-dens, Ozark Folk Center, Graceland and Crystal Bridges. Little Rock is located in the middle of the state so it doesn't take more than three hours in any direction to see something exciting. You can even get to some pretty neat sites just over the border of any adjoining state.

There are many attractions to visit within walking distance of the Convention Center. Ride the Trolley and get a history of many places along the route. See the Bill Clinton Library just down the street. Check out Heifer International located beside the Clinton Library. It is free and there are so many interesting things to learn. Downtown Little Rock has over 30 restaurants within walking distance along with the buffet and kiosks that you will find in the Convention Center.

We know we are small, but we plan for your visit to really be a "Diamond". We are going to have some of the best callers, cuers, and entertainment in the world. Our goal is for everyone to go home saying, "The 63rd National Square Dance Convention® was the Best of the Best." We will have education opportunities with clinics, seminars, and a keynote speaker all hosted by knowledgeable leaders. Sew and save will have chances for you to win all kinds of things and get great ideas and patterns for that new dress or shirt that you have been wanting. You will also want to check out our Ways and Means and see what Arkansas has that you just can't live without. Did I mention dancing? Dancing for everyone; Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and Challenge square danc-ing; round dancing, handicapable dancing, contra, clogging, and line dancing.

Find us on our website, (www.63nsdc.com). You may also find us on Facebook under the 63rd National Square Dance.

DANCE LESSONS

"I am still learning." Michelangelo.....at age 70

Week Eight – Plus students continue to practice, practice and more practice in order to fully engrain the Plus calls into their gray matter. However, you know the old adage "if you don't use it….". So, we plan to get them integrated into our Plus dancing as soon as possible.

"Those who danced were thought to be quite insane by those who could not hear the music." Angela Monet

Mainstream lessons are scheduled to start on August 27th also at Carpenter Recreation Center in Plano. Wayne Baldwin will be teaching and he is definitely the instructor that you want your friends to learn from.

Registration starts August 11th. We have had packets on the table by the entry door and will have them for the next dance.

If you need details, you can print the lessons flyer from our www.SwingingStars.org web-site. If you want a three-fold flyer on the heavier paper you can pick up a supply at our next club dance. Or, you can follow this link (or type it into your internet browser)

http://www.swingingstars.org/Mainstream square dance lessons 2013.pdf and print your own.

IMPROVE YOUR SQUARE DANCING:

The following expands the sections from the Reader's Digest version last week. Over the next few weeks we will focus on the expanded article section-by-section. We can all improve our dancing by working on these simple techniques. Are you using these techniques?

TIPS FOR BETTER DANCING - By Ed Foote

The purpose of this article is to enhance your dancing pleasure. Dancers who follow these rules find they dance more, stand less, and in general have a more enjoyable dancing experience.

- 1. **Take Hands with those standing beside you.** This should be done immediately after completing any figure, to enable you to see the formation you have (line, wave, etc.) when doing the next call.
 - A. Hands should be joined within one-half second after the completion of any call. Failure to join hands after a call will often result in sloppy lines of waves, which could cause the square to break down before or during the execution of the next call.
 - B. Elbows must be bent when hands are joined. If arms are outstretched when hands are touching the set is much too large to operate smoothly.

2. How to Avoid Breaking Down

- A. **Believe the caller**. Often dancers will stop cold if a caller tells them to do something and they do not understand why. Forget worrying about "why" and just do as the caller says. Refusing to execute a given command will cause the square to break down.
- B. If the caller gives a call you have never heard, do not give up and quit. In the vast majority of cases the caller will tell you how to do the call after he has said the name, especially if it is not one of the Mainstream or Plus Program calls. Even if you have never heard a call, if it is not complicated, there is no reason for inability to do the call if the caller talks you thru it.
- C. **If you want to help someone who is lost, use hand signal.** I very effective method is to point at the spot they should be occupying. If you talk, you could cause yourself and others in the square to miss hearing the caller give the next call.
- D. If you are positive you have done a call correctly, do not let someone who is unsure of the call make you change your position. This will keep the square going.
- E. **Keep your head raised.** This lets you see what is going on. Many people dance looking down at the floor, and thus are out of touch with the set as a whole.

- F. Experienced couples should be across from each other when square up, never adjacent, If a set consists of two experienced couples and two inexperienced couples. This will give each inexperienced dancer an experienced corner and will provide each side of the square with experienced dancers when doing calls.
- G. **Keep the set small.** Touching hands immediately after each call is one way to accomplish this. Large sets break down much more often than small ones.
- H. Always have your set line up with the wall. Often a set will become slightly offset from being lined up with the walls; now a Cast Off or other turning motion may cause some people to become disoriented. If the caller has the set Promenade and has the heads of sides Wheel Around, it is quite likely the set will not be line up with the walls. Solution: Take it upon yourself to make slight adjustments on the next two or three calls to get the set aligned with the walls. One person can cause the whole set to adjust, so you be this person.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember our Sunshine person is Debbie Piziali and you can email her at Piziali.DV.org or her phone number is 214-552-9802. Please call her with anything that we need to be aware of in regards to sickness or other issues.

The following is an announcement from the president of Log Cabin Swingers.

REMEMBER WHEN YOU FIRST LEARNED TO DANCE???? EVERYBODY HAS TO START SOMEWHERE!!!!!

The Log Cabin Swingers in Tool, TX are planning to support the new trainees and anyone wishing to experience calling or cueing with a special night of fun. The new trainees do not get to call for a full floor of dancers often so we would ask that you make plans to attend if possible. Anyone wishing to call or cue is asked to bring two couples with them. If you are interested in calling or cueing contact Ronnie Himes at 903-887-2691 for more information.

DATE: AUGUST 10TH

LOCATION: PROMENADE HALL, TOOL, TX (HWY 274-TWO MILES SOUTH OF RED LIGHT

IN SEVEN POINTS-on right)

TIME: 7 P.M. UNTIL??? (TOO TIRED TO DANCE ANYMORE)

COST: \$4 PER PERSON

ATTIRE: CASUAL

REFRESHMENTS: COFFEE & COOKIES

Hope to see you there and help us get the word out please.

Cruise Raffle Tickets – NORTEX started us off with 250 raffle tickets and we sold them within a week. If you did not get your share, never fear we obtained another 251 tickets (don't ask me why 251???).

For those of you are thinking – Cruise, what cruise??? Raffle, what???

NORTEX is sponsoring the raffling of a Cruise scheduled to depart March 30^{th} – April 6^{th} 2014 leaving from Galveston, TX. The cruise is a great one! Royal Caribbean's Navigator of the Seas and Island stops are to include Cozumel, Grand Caymans and Jamaica. The cruise, for us square dancers, is a Square Dance cruise with Jerry Story and Joe Saltel. For your non-square family and friends, it is just a Cruise.

We have been on this cruise and it is really a fun one even without the square dancing but with dancing available each day—What a bargain! Several Swinging Stars have already booked the trip. We have had the flyers on the table at our dances but you can also see the flyer on Jerry Story's website.

Aug. 10th Log Cabin Swingers – Greeny Night - Starts at 7pm till all are tired or have no more callers. Dress will be casual. Cost per dancer will be \$4.

August 25th – NORTEX Pre-Roundup Kickoff & Food Drive, 4:30 – 6:30, Plymouth Park United Methodist Church in Irving - Peggy Amy advised that this is a double signature dance.

* * * From Your 2nd VPs * * *

We hope you are finding ways to beat the heat – the real Texas summer has found its way to our doorstep after such a wonderfully mild July. We had a couple of fun dances this weekend and even got to dance to Tim Tyl, a well-liked energetic caller, who doesn't make it to Dallas very often. This weekend we have our own Swinging Stars' club dance Friday night and an Of Interest dance at Log Cabin Swingers in Tool, TX for their Greenie Night to support aspiring callers and cuers – let's get out and support them.

Are you going to CHAPARRAL EVENING IN PARIS August 30-31st? Registration forms have been mailed for 18 Swinging Stars couples. If your registration was not included and you decide you want to go, just send it directly to the dance organizers per the flyer details: http://swingingstars.org/19thEvening In Paris.pdf. Make sure to let us know you are going though, so we can include you on our emails with details about a Swinging Stars after party on Friday and group reservation dinner on Saturday.

The current Swinging Star banner inventory is as 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
Cotton Pickin' Squares	23-Mar-13
Dixie Chainers	25-May-13
Dublin Cloverleafs	02-Jul-05
Kissin' Kuzzins	17-May-13
Log Cabin Swingers	4-May-13
Lone Star Solos	28-Mar-13
North Star 8	09-Feb-13
Rebel Rousers	15-Jun-13
Roadrunners	04-Jul-13
Solitaires	03-Nov-12
Texas Reelers	19-Jul-13
Texoma Squares	01-Jun-13
Trailblazers	20-Jul-13
Tri City Promenaders	26-Jan-13
T-Square Gadabouts	15-Feb-13
Yellow Rockers	18-Apr-13

Club	Date Captured

* * * EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK * * *

Dance of Interest – Kissin' Kuzzins and Texas Reelers, Friday, August 2nd

We were so glad 27 Swinging Stars attended the Kissin' Kuzzins and Texas Reelers friendship Dog Days of Summer dance. This was a fun dance with a double helping of cuers and even more than a double helping of callers. JL Pelton served up the first half of early rounds and Jack von der Heide the second and they switched off on rounds between tips. Both played many crowd favorites including easy and challenging dances. Wayne Baldwin and Deborah Carroll-Jones tag teamed the calling with a refreshing collection of individual tunes and duets. And Jon Jones grabbed a microphone for the last tip of the evening. The two clubs served refreshments including dips and chips and cookies. Afterwards the dancers filled 3 long tables at Dos Banderas for further refreshment and social interaction. The Swinging Stars who went included: the Brandens, Bullocks, Bursons, Evantos, Harrises, Loxsoms, McGuires, Pharrs, Pitts, Smith / Hardin, Starretts, Trujillos, Underwoods, and C. Wolfe.

Dance of Interest – Solitaires, Saturday, August 3rd

A dozen Swinging Stars paid a visit to the Solitaires for their pajama dance Saturday night at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Farmers Branch. Early rounds, and rounds between tips were cued by JL Pelton who catered to the likes of both the newbie and advanced round dancers. The caller was Tim Tyl from Whiteoak, Texas who made his first visit to the Dallas area in a long time with one of his sons. Tim vibrantly led exciting mainstream and plus tips which were enjoyed by all the dancers. Just before the last tip Tim entertained the audience with his intricate version of the story about the little snake and Mrs. Pitts' pit and Mrs. Potts pit which was a hoot and got massive laughter from all the dancers. The Swinging Stars who went to the dance were: P. Amy, F. Bivins, Bursons, Evantos, Pharrs, Pitts, and Smith / Hardin.

Decatur 8'ers, Saturday, August 3rd

Four Swinging Stars visited the Decatur 8'ers in Bridgeport on Saturday for their "Roaring 20's" Double Deal Dance. The 8ers now dance on the new Wise County Campus of Weatherford College. The night's squares were called by veteran Mike Bramlett. Mike challenged square dancers with interesting call sequences and entertained them with several great singing calls after first explaining the history of each song. All in attendance had a great time. Visiting Swinging Stars (of Plano) were the Bondis and Kilejians. To our surprise, other Swinging Stars from Wichita Falls were also in attendance. Thanks to Jim Bondi for the dance details.

* * * COMING EVENTS * * *

Swinging Stars Club Dance, Friday, August 9th

Location: Shepard Elementary School (1000 Wilson Dr., Plano, TX)

Website: www.swingingstars.org

Time: Workshop -7:30PM / dance -8:00PM

Caller: Wayne Baldwin
Cuer: Walter Brewer

Notes: This is an open house dance – bring friends who may be interested in square dancing. We will also

be visited by NORTEX Round Up officers who will be advertising Round Up

Dance of Interest – Log Cabin Swingers, August 10th

Location: Promenade Hall (1210 N. Tool Dr., Hwy 274, Tool, TX)

Website: http://www.logcabinsquaredanceclub.com/

Time: Dance – 7:00PM Caller: Local aspiring callers Cuer: Local aspiring cuers

Theme: "Greenie-Newby-Wannabe" Night

Notes: Casual attire acceptable

Dance of Interest - Rebel Rousers, August 17th

Location: Richardson Senior Center (820 W. Arapaho, Richardson, TX)

Website: http://www.rebelrousersdallas.com/

Time: Early rounds – 7:30PM / grand march – 8:00PM

Caller: Mike Bramlett
Cuer: Christine Hixson
Theme: Summer Sundaes
Notes: Casual attire acceptable

Ladies Luncheon, Tuesday, August 20th

Location: A Taste of Home (302 N. Ballard Ave, Wylie, TX)

Website: http://www.tasteofhomewylie.com/

Time: 12:00PM Hostess: Peggy Pharr

Notes: Let Peggy know if you plan to attend (email: pjp0901@juno.com ph: 972.843.3991)

Swinging Stars Club Dance, Friday, August 23rd

Location: Shepard Elementary School (1000 Wilson Dr., Plano, TX)

Website: <u>www.swingingstars.org</u>

Time: Early rounds 7:30PM / dance – 8:00PM

Caller: Wayne Baldwin Cuer: Walter Brewer

Theme: Take Me Out to the Ballgame Notes: Wear your favorite team colors

Dance of Interest - Tri-City Promenaders, Saturday, August 24th

Location: Brookside Center (1244 Brookside, Hurst, TX)

Website: http://www.tricitypromenaders.com/

Time: Early rounds 7:00PM / workshop 7:30PM / grand march – 8:00PM

Caller: Paul Kinsey
Cuer: Chris Farabaugh
Theme: Beat the Heat

Notes: Casual attire acceptable

Official - NORTEX Yellow Rose of Texas Round Up Kickoff, Sunday, August 25th

Location: Plymouth Park Methodist Church (1615 W. Airport Freeway, Irving, TX)

Website: http://www.nortex.org

Time: Early rounds 4:00PM / dance - 5:00PM - 7:00PM

Notes: Cash and food (preferable jelly) collected will be donated to Dallas and Tarrant Counties needy,

wear yellow if you have it

Official – Lone Star Solos, Thursday, August 29th

Location: Knight of Columbus Hall (10110 Shoreview Rd., Dallas, TX)

Website: http://www.lonestarsolos.com/

Time: Early rounds 7:30PM / grand march – 8:00PM

Caller: Marshall Flippo
Cuer: Chris Farabaugh
Theme: Flip over Flippo
Notes: Double deal dance

Official – Triangle Squares, Friday, August 30th

Location: Denton Civic Center (321 E. McKinney St., Denton, TX)

Website: http://www.trianglesquaresdanceclub.com/
Time: Early rounds 7:30PM / grand march – 8:00PM

Caller: Toby Thomason and Danny Blagg

Cuer: Toby Thomason

Theme: Schmidtz Family Celebrates All Things Texas Notes: Double deal dance, supper served after 1st tip

Attire: Usually hilly billy attire and this year maybe with a Texas twist? FUN Dance every year!

Dance of Interest - Rainbow Rounds, Saturday, August 31st

Location: Swingtime Center (5100 SE Loop 820, Ft. Worth, TX)

Website: n/a

Time: Early rounds 7:00PM / grand march – 8:00PM

Caller: Dave Viera and Ray Savell

Cuer: Karen Gloodt
Theme: Under the Rainbow

Notes: Double deal anniversary dance, round dance club but their anniversary includes square dancing too

* * * SPECIAL WEEKEND DANCE OPPORTUNITIES * * *

19th Annual Evening in Paris, August 30-31st

Location: Love Civic Center, Paris, TX

Website: http://swingingstars.org/19thEvening In Paris.pdf

Callers: Gary Shoemake, Mike Bramlett, Ken Bower, Marshall Flippo

Cuer: Patti Wheelington

Notes: 3 dance halls: plus, advanced, and mainstream (singing calls)

16th Annual Square Round the Lake Plus Square Dance Weekend, September 20-21st

Location: DeGray Lake Resort Lodge

Website: http://swingingstars.org/Sq Around Lake2013.pdf

Callers: Tony Oxendine and Ken Bower

Cuer: Patti Wheelington

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 Dues are: \$35.00 per quarter per couple

4905 Hackberry Lane \$70.00 per half year per couple Parker, Texas 75002-5627 (preferred) \$140.00 per year per couple

Parker, Texas 75002-5627 (preferred) \$140.00 per year per couple Treasurer@swingingstars.org

Please make your check payable to Swinging Stars

REFRESHMENTS DUTY AND INFORMATION

August 9 Reid, Rickert*, Kendrick, Trujillo
August 23 Bullock, Hardin/Smith, Jimison, Foust
September 13 Sherman, Schumacher*, Pharr, Ramirez
September 27 Dennison, Rickett*, Underwood, Maier

*New Club Members - can be leaders after one year as club member

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 <u>lstVP@swingingstars.org</u> 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.

Upcoming Advertised Swinging Stars Theme Dances thru Aug 2013



August 23, 2013

Take Me Out to the Ballgame



September 27, 2013

Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff



Friday, August 9th – Open House Dance, Bring your prospective students

Sunday, August 25th – NORTEX Pre-Roundup Kickoff & Food Drive, 4:30 – 6:30, Plymouth Park United Methodist Church in Irving – this is s double signature dance

Tuesday, August 27th – Mainstream Lessons at Carpenter Rec. Center in Plano, 7:00

Friday, November 1st – Cavalcade at Roundup will run from 6:00 – 10:00 on November 1st

Friday, December 6th – Stars Annual Holiday Party
Sunday, December 8th – NORTEX Toys for Tots dance will be at the Richardson Civic Center

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

Themes:

August 23, 2013 - Take Me Out to the Ballgame

September 27, 2013 - Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff

October 25, 2013 - Boot Scootin' Show Your Colors Ball - Double Deal Dance

November 22, 2013 – Shake Your Tail Feathers Dance (Thanksgiving falls on November 28, 2013)

December 13, 2013 - Toys & Books for Tots Fairytale Ball

February 14, 2014 - Valentine's Day Dance

Future Dates Reserved with NORTEX:

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

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

Saturday, October 31, 2015 – Double Deal Halloween Dance (Fifth Saturday)*

Saturday, January 30, 2016 –41st Anniversary Dance (Fifth Saturday)

Saturday, October 29, 2016 – Double Deal Halloween Dance (Fifth Saturday)*

*provided these dates do not conflict with the NORTEX Round Up Dance weekend

Mark the dates on your calendar right now.....



63rd National Square Dance Convention®

June 25 - 28, 2014 Little Rock, Arkansas

Website: www.63nsdc.com & Facebook under the 63rd National Square Dance Convention®.

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. Dave and Lorraine have agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee for this fall as a slate of officers needs to be re-elected at our November Club meeting. Roger & Janelle Row and Ralph & Lucy Hamm have also volunteered. We would like to have one or two additional couples. If you are interested, contact me, Jan, Dave or Lorraine.

RICHARD & JAN COVINGTON

Swinging Stars, President

Email: president@swingingstars.org

Phones: (972) 325-1144