Newsletter for August 11, 2013

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

Good attendance at our Open House Friday night – we had forty-eight visitors and seventy-eight swinging stars for a total of one-hundred and twenty-six dancers. We had a number of non-dancers that came to check out our favorite pass-time. We had 16 NORTEX officers visit to announce the upcoming Round Up Theme and talk about the grand prize, the cruise on Royal Caribbean to Cozumel, Grand Caymans and Jamaican. As a club we have sold/bought about 300 tickets. We have another four hundred available to sell and we have up until Round Up to sell them – we should be able to do that. I have a goal to sell another 100 myself…it's easy, they sell themselves and most people want at least 10 tickets.

Funny thing, when the lessons committee met back in May someone mentioned having the open house (Ann Stuart I believe) as they had one several years ago. So, we sat down with the calendar and picked August 9th. Our thoughts were that it was right before the 08/11 signup date for our mainstream lessons at Carpenter Rec Center and with it being the last dance before the kids go back to school, we thought that we would have a small crowd. When I found out that NORTEX was coming and then we heard that Kissin' Kuzzins were coming with a group, then Rebel Rousers, Trailblazers and Dixie Chainers were coming with groups as well. I am thinking "oh boy" bad timing for a open house with non-dancers. However, I found out that some of our visiting dancers were planning to bring their non-dancing friends and family. I was then concerned that with a large crowd that those dancers who came for a dance would not appreciate Wayne's teaching tips, instead of just dancing. Nevertheless, I did not receive one complaint and everyone enjoyed it a lot. In fact, I had a number of visiting dancers and club officers tell me what a great idea this was and that they plan to borrow our idea and have an Open House of their own.

I love the fact that Wayne teaches new dancers enough to dance a singing call the very first time they are on the floor. The new dancers, the prospective students, get a better feel for the fun they will have once they finish lessons. I believe Walter did a wonderful job of getting all of the visitors and square dancers up to line dance. The floor was full! I wish that I could have danced every tip last night.

One more story I want to share about our Open House. Jan and I attended our first GRaM committee meeting in July and at the meeting one of the clubs members indicated that they had just had a Fun Dance with Family & Friends and they suggested that we recommend it to the other clubs. They were surprised to learn that we had our Open House planned. I like their billing – Fun Dance with Family & Friend. I hope that it becomes a tradition with all square dance clubs.

Richard and Jan

SWINGING STARS NORTEX GIFT

At our Friday night dance we, the Swinging Stars, gifted the ring in the following picture for one of their door prize drawings at Round-Up. Thank you Mel & Sondra Foust for making this possible.



Round-up is just a couple of months away and I can already feel the excitement building. Thank you NORTEX for being the great organization that you are.

DANCE LESSONS

Plus lessons are completed and graduation is this Tuesday night. The following is shared by Jim and Knarik Bondi

Our First Real "Plus" Dance Outing

We'd completed all but one of our 10 Plus lessons as ably taught by Hall of Fame caller Wayne Baldwin. We'd carefully studied the Caller Lab definitions for all 30 Plus calls both in class (with Wayne and other students and angels) and also at home by ourselves. We'd watched several internet videos of Plus dancing. We'd even attended a special lesson arranged by fellow students Kilejians at their house on a Sunday evening with caller trainee Richard Covington and veteran dancers Bursons graciously instructing us. Were we finally ready now to try some real Plus dancing on a real dance floor during a real dance? The very thought was, to put it mildly, a bit scary.

Veteran Swinging Star, Peggy Amy, knowing how anxious we were to somehow grow into real plus dancers, went out of her way to let us know about clubs like the "Plus Fours" where we could try out our new Plus dancing ambitions. She assured us that the Plus Fours club was full of great Plus dancers who understood how harrowing it can be to initially try a move to the next dancing level. All of these great dancers had been in our shoes themselves sometime in their learning years and, she assured us, would kindly tolerate our early falterings as we took our first "Plus steps." She said they would understand when we had some inevitable initial missteps and that they would help and encourage us to get better.

Next thing you know, we're at the Plus Fours standing in our first square, waiting for the music to start and for veteran caller Charles Quizenberry to bark the first call. Gulp! We're we ready enough for this? The music started, the calls began, and our first real Plus tip was underway. About 10 minutes later, when this tip finished, we were still standing and

largely relieved. Yes, we'd had some "glazed eyes" moments and made some mistakes but, in large part, it had gone well enough that we felt good and were glad we'd followed Peggy's advice ... and come. The best part was that when the mistakes happened, other Plus Fourers, and "Dr. Quizenberry" himself, were understanding, encouraging, and helpful. As the evening progressed, we did indeed make more occasional mistakes but other Plus Fours were always supportive and helpful. As the evening progressed, our squares always had a good time. Yes, we sometimes temporarily "disrupted" the squares in which we danced a little. Heck, even the veteran dancers were occasionally stumped by some of "Dr. Quiz's" more sophisticated orders. The point is that these stumblings, because of the support of other dancers and and/or special corrective attention from "Quiz" himself, became learning experiences. The tip moved on, the stumblers learned, and all finished the tips smiling.

Would we do it again? ... You bet. Square 'em up.

Jim and Knarik Bondi

STATE SPOT LIGHT

The Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers® presents. . .

stars & Stripes Over Texas

52ND Annual Texas State Square & Round Dance Festival



Trail End Dance 7:00 pm, June 12, 2014 Texas State Callers' Association Squares & Rounds



Optional Round Dance 1-4pm, June 13, 2014 Texas Round Dance Teachers Association All Rounds



Pre-Festival Dance 7:00pm, June 13, 2014 East Texas Square & Round Dance Association Squares & Rounds



52nd Texas State Festival 9am -10pm, June 14, 2014 Texas State Federation of Square & Round Dancers Square, Rounds, Contra Line Dancing & Clogging



IMPROVE YOUR SQUARE DANCING

The following expands the sections from the Reader's Digest version previously published and picks up where last week left off. 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.

(continued)

3. If you Become Completely Lost

- A. **Do not turn around.** This will make it difficult for someone behind you to help you recover. It is much easier to guide someone into place by guiding them from the back.
- B. **Turn your head in all directions to see where you should go.** If someone says to turn around or you see that you should turn around, then do it. Otherwise, retain your facing direction and let someone guide you into place.
- C. **Do not wander around.** Stay put until someone either guides you into place or directs you to a certain position. Do not be surprised to get this help—expect that you will get it and be ready to respond to it quickly.

4. If your square breaks down, get to facing lines.

Do this by squaring your set and then have the head couples slide to the right to form normal facing lines of four (each boy with a girl on his right). Now watch the other squares. Often the caller will get the squares back to facing lines several times before finally getting to a Left Allemande; when he does get them to facing lines, your square can now pick up the next call and you are dancing again. You may not wind up with your original partner or corner, but you are dancing and this is the name of the game.

This will not work every time, as sometimes the caller does not bring people back to facing lines before a Left Allemande; but it works often enough to be worth doing. In fact, many callers will intentionally bring people back to facing lines in order to pick up those who have broken down early. If you do not accept this opportunity to resume dancing, you may have a log stand until the next Left Allemande.

to be continued...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember our Sunshine person is Debbie Piziali and you can email her at <u>debbie@piziali.dv.org</u> 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.

NORTEX is sponsoring the raffling of a Cruise scheduled to depart March 30th – April 6th 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.

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 * * *

In addition to our own well attended open house dance (and Round Up committee visitation) on Friday, the Swinging Stars were out and about all week. The visiting contingents included: plus dancers including some of our soon to graduate students at Plus 4's, visitors to the planned greenie night with the Log Cabin Swingers helping upcoming callers, some round dancers to Ft. Worth at the round dance festival, and a couple of groups who visited the Lone Star Solos and the Dixie Chainers. It is great to see the initiative by our dancers to get out and visit – you can read about the details below.

This week offers even more for those interested. Pay attention as the following dances are opportunities that are not listed on our calendar or in the coming dances section below: 1) we have heard several couples sharing an interest in Friendship Plus at Richardson Senior Center Monday, August 12th, starting at 7:00PM with Mike Bramlett calling, 2) Thursday, August 15th, Joey Duhamel is calling at the Roadrunners for their Hawaiian Luau dance – see the Promenade for details, and 3) the Texas Reelers are having a Hot August Night Picnic dance at Richardson Senior Center Friday, August 16th – see the Promenade for details. Many Swinging Stars on the Round Up committee will be at the Reelers dance to advertise The Yellow Rose of Texas Round Up – you can wear yellow if you have it. And we have a dance of interest planned with the Rebel Rousers for their Summer Sundaes dance Saturday, August 17th. And to wrap up the weekend there is a NORTEX quarterly meeting at Swingtime Center on Sunday, August 18th.

We are sure to bump into many of you this week with all this going on. Happy dancing!

Are you going to CHAPARRAL EVENING IN PARIS August 30-31st? Our Swinging Stars registration forms have been received and all is in good order for the 18 Swinging Stars couples we know are going. We are hearing from at least another 2 couples who are considering going. If you want to go, send your registration 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 so we can include you on our emails with details about a Swinging Stars after party Friday and group reservation dinner Saturday.

The current Swinging Star banner inventory is shown below. If you visit a club whose banner we have, please don't bring home another one.

Banners Captured by the Swinging Stars

Club **Date Captured** Cotton Pickin' Squares 23-Mar-13 Dixie Chainers 10-Aug-13 02-Jul-05 **Dublin Cloverleafs** Log Cabin Swingers 4-May-13 Lone Star Solos 28-Mar-13 North Star 8 09-Feb-13 Roadrunners 04-Jul-13 Solitaires 03-Nov-12 Texas Reelers 19-Jul-13 01-Jun-13 Texoma Squares Tri City Promenaders 26-Jan-13 T-Square Gadabouts 15-Feb-13 Yellow Rockers 18-Apr-13

Swinging Stars Banners Out

Club	Date Captured

* * * EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK * * *

Plus 4's, August 7th

A total of 10 Swinging Stars visited the Plus 4's in Farmers Branch Wednesday evening. The 8 plus tips were called by veteran Charles "Quiz" Quisenberry who challenged dancers with some unusual calls, but at the same time, offered extra help to "plus newcomers" when needed. The visiting Swinging Stars were: the Amys, Bondis, Evantos, Lewises, and Sees. Thanks to Jim Bondi for capturing the dance details.

Lone Star Solos, August 8th

Four Swinging Stars visited the Lone Star Solos Thursday night. Rounds were cued by Chris Farabaugh while squares were called by Dave Vieira. As always, Dave called brisk tips with occasional "twists and turns" that kept dancers on their toes. All in attendance had a great time. The visiting Swinging Stars were the Bondis and the Sees. Thanks to Jim Bondi for sending the dance details.

Texas Round Dance Teachers North Festival, August 9th-10th

Four Swinging Stars couples attended this first annual round dance event which was held Friday and Saturday at Swingtime Center. The festival featured cuers from across the great State of Texas. The events included teaches, dances, and there were after parties both nights. The Swinging Stars who attended were: the Loxsoms, Perrotts, Starretts, and the Underwoods. Thanks to Maryann Starrett for sharing the dance details.

Dance of Interest - Log Cabin Swingers, August 10th

Four Swinging Stars couples visited the Log Cabin Swingers for a greenie caller night at their dance hall in Tool. There were 7 new callers, including our own Richard Covington, who called to a good group of 4 to 5 squares of dancers. And NORTEX presidents, Ray and Vicki Spray, were on hand to dance and see all the new callers. The Swinging Stars couples who made the trip were: the Covingtons, Pitts, Rows, and Trujillos.

Dixie Chainers, August 10th

A total of 11 Swinging Stars visited the Dixie Chainers in Farmers Branch on Saturday. Rounds were cued by Jack von der Heide and squares were called by Vernon Jones. Vernon kept things lively, and sometimes rather surprising, for the square dancers. All in attendance had a terrific time. The visiting Swinging Stars were P. Amy, Bondis, Colters, Evantos, Kilejians, and Smith/Hardin. Swinging Stars (re)captured the Dixie Chainers banner at this dance. Thanks to Jim Bondi for the dance details.

* * * COMING EVENTS * * *

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

NORTEX Quarterly Meeting, August 19th

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

Website: http://www.nortex.org/

Time: Start at 2:00PM

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: www.swingingstars.org

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 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: DeGrav 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 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

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

October 11 Gifford, Nejdl, Hamm, McGuire October 25 Amy, Lewis, Kilejian*, Meyer

*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 <u>list</u> 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



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 Kids Holiday 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 Hamms 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