

Newsletter for August 18, 2013

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

So,

Where can you dance to 11 callers and 3 cuers for 3 hours for a jar of jelly or a box of rice? Where can you show off your "yellow duds"? Where can you dance with people from every NORTEX club all in one place?

The answer is:

The PreRound-Up dance Sunday, August 25th, early rounds at 4 and "square'em- up" at 5 - 7PM in Irving at the Plymouth Park United Methodist Church located at 1919 W. Pioneer Parkway, Irving, TX The callers and cuers are donating their time for this dance which will benefit the Dallas and Ft. Worth food banks. There is a rumor that there might even be a TV crew on hand for the event! Wear your yellow!

Come join us next Sunday as we enjoy this annual event.

Highlights of our quarterly NORTEX Meeting held Sunday afternoon, August 18, 2013.

- 1. Pre-Round up dance next Sunday, August 25th in Irving-
- 2. Cavalcade –for dancers to have the opportunity to hear new callers or callers in training on Nov. 1st before round up in Grapevine
- 3. Dec. 8th Toys for Tots at the Richardson Convention Center on Arapaho.
 - a. 2:30 4:00 Formula 51—perfect timing for our next class of students to enjoy
 - b. 5:30 8:00 Rounds/Square Dancing
 - c. Santa Land available
 - d. Tables for sponsors (\$100) each
- 4. Teen Scholarship donations for scholarships-\$421 donated by 3 clubs today.
- 5. Listening devices that can be used by individuals at dances to enable them to better hear the callers and cuers-more info to follow
- 6. Lesson flyers-check out the "life is just a dance" website Swinging Stars is on the map.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you on Friday night with our "Take me out to the Ballgame" dance!

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 have finished and our new Plus dancers need veteran Plus dancers to go to the local Plus clubs and dance with them. Make a call, set a date, share a ride and get to know another Swinging Star a little better, have fun and make a friend....

Quiz came to our Plus Lessons graduation this past Tuesday and issued a personal invitation to our new students to visit Plus 4's. They dance every first and third Wednesday of the month. Quiz mixes it up and if you follow his directions he will get you through it.

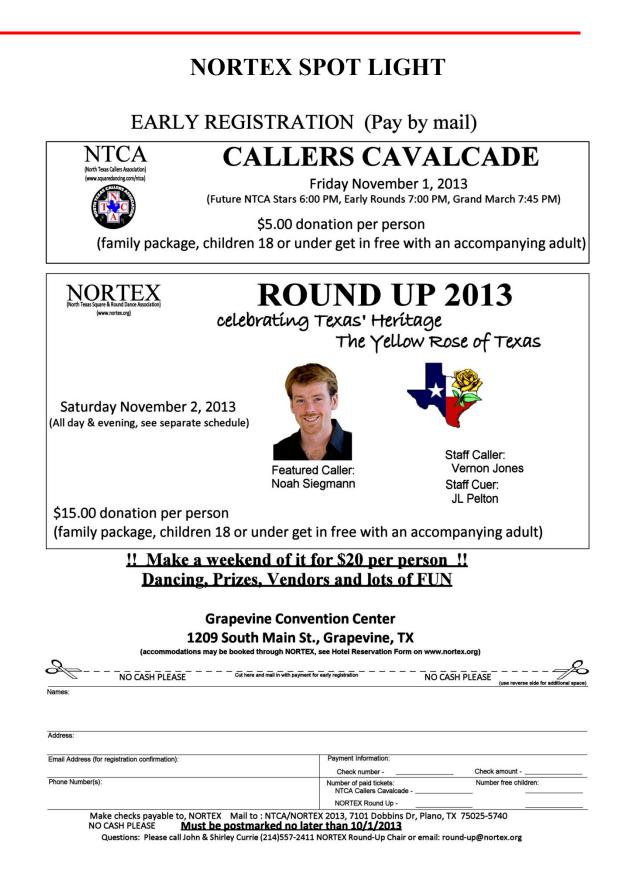
Mike Bramlett's Friendship Squares dance on the second and fourth Monday every month. Mike is a talented caller and he will put you through some very interesting paces. However, Mike is talented and will help you correctly finish the call.

"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 <u>www.SwingingStars.org</u> 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 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)

5. How to pass proper shoulders

Whenever you Pass thru with someone, always pass right shoulders, never pass left shoulders.6. How to Learn Properly.

A. **Try to understand the definition of the call rather than just memorizing a position.** If you understand the definition you will be able to do the call from any position; but if you have only memorized one position, you will be lost if the call is used from any other position.

When a call is presented, it is often taught by telling the boys to do something and the girls to do something else. However, the definition of a call almost never involves a person's sex, but rather is written for the outsides to do something and the insides to do something else, or the left-hand person des one thing and the right-hand person does something else, etc. The definition is what you want to remember, not the particular teaching set-up that was used.

If you are not sure of the correct definition after a call is taught, ask the caller to explain it without using the terms "boys" or "girls."

B. **Please be quiet while the caller is explaining something.** You may not need the help but others may.

If a caller is walking the floor thru a call, do not get ahead of the caller's prompting eve n if you know what comes next. This is inconsiderate of fellow dancers who need this help and could keep them from fully understanding the call, leading to a possible breakdown of the set later on.

7. Two primary reasons for squares breaking down

A. Failure to take hands with adjacent dancers at the completion of every call to form lines or waves.

B. Failure to listen to or believe the caller.

This concludes the Ed Foote article on "Tips for Better Dancing." And, I would be surprised if any of it was new to you as Wayne has taught and continues to teach us all of these points from lessons-to-dances.

Nevertheless, I hope that you all enjoyed the review as much as I did. Now for those of you who asked, who is Ed Foote, here is a little about him.

Info about Ed Foote

- Four home square dance clubs
- Full-time traveling U.S., Europe, Asia
- Festivals
- Leadership Seminars
- CALLERLAB member & Accredited Caller Coach
- Caller Seminars, Clinics & Schools
- BMI & ASCAP licensed
- Staff writer for 3 square dance magazines
- Author & Editor of square dance instructional books
- Producer of Audio & Video teaching & dancing tapes

Calling since 1965. Former member of CALLERLAB board of Governors, committee chairman. Active in caller training seminars. Calling all square dance programs thru Challenge.

Jan and I learned to dance higher levels of dancing from Ed Foote cassette tapes in our home. As time allows, we hope to be able to relearn the A1, A2 level and attend Wayne's Advanced Club, Model A's.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Correction: Last week I indicated that it was Anne Stuart that suggested the open house, however, it was Lorraine Burson instead.

Is anyone interested in a bus trip? We plan to go in force to the Decatur 8er's for their 35th Anniversary Oktoberfest Dance on Saturday October 5th, 2013. I hear chanting... road trip, road trip, road trip, **ROAD TRIP, ROAD TRIP**.... Yep, we, Swinging Stars, are planning a bus trip and want to know if you are interested. Email your 2ND VP's, Bob & Terri Pitts - <u>bobp8211@gmail.com</u> or <u>tjtpitts@sbcglobal.net</u>, and tell them you want to go. Bob & Terri are checking of bus prices....



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 * * *

Last week was a fun and incredibly busy week of dancing (read about the visitations below), and we had some great Stars turnouts at Monday's Friendship Plus, Thursday's Roadrunners Hawaiian Luau, Friday's Texas Reelers' Hot August Night Picnic and Kissin' Kuzzins' open house dance, and Saturday's Rebel Rousers' Summer Sundaes and Log Cabin Swingers dances.

During this week, your dance chances include dancing at Wednesday's Plus 4's (DBD plus dancing), and Thursday's Lone Star Solos Casual Beach Party (these two during the week dances are NOT on our calendar but are in the Promenade). And for the weekend, Friday night we have our own Swinging Stars theme dance "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and a Saturday visit to Tri-City Promenaders for their "Beat the Heat" dance.

<u>And this Sunday is the very important NORTEX Roundup Kickoff dance (Swinging Stars need to show</u> <u>up in force)</u> in Irving at the Plymouth Park Methodist Church. This is a free dance but note that NORTEX is requesting food or, preferably money, for donations to Dallas and Tarrant County food banks. There will be 15 area callers, 3 area cuers, and 2 dance halls for square, round, and line dancing. It is also highly likely that NBC will have a camera crew present filming the dance for a coming news segment so wear your square dance best – especially yellow if you have it. This will be a double signature opportunity for dancers (and clubs if 8 or more attend).

Tuesday, don't forget, we are having our ladies luncheon in Wylie at a Taste of Home hosted by Peggy Pharr. Notify Peggy ASAP if you can attend. There is a quilt shop nearby we can visit.

As a note, please be aware that we have new plus dancers in our midst. Hopefully, some of our seasoned dancers can join them in squares to further their plus dancing skills.

<u>CHAPARRAL EVENING IN PARIS August 30-31st</u> *is only 2 weeks away.* Early registrations must be received by August 20th so it's too late to mail to get the reduced rate. But you can still go – but it will cost a little more. A phenomenal 20 Swinging Stars couples are registered to go. If you haven't already, let your 2nd VPs (<u>2ndVP@swingingstars.org</u>) know you are coming so we can include you in emails with details about colors to wear, the Swinging Stars after party Friday, and group reservation dinner Saturday. Dance flyer: <u>http://swingingstars.org/19thEvening_In_Paris.pdf</u>.

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. We have no banners out.

Club	Date Captured
Cotton Pickin' Squares	23-Mar-13
Dixie Chainers	10-Aug-13
Log Cabin Swingers	4-May-13
Lone Star Solos	28-Mar-13
North Star 8	09-Feb-13
Rebel Rousers	17-Aug-13
Roadrunners	04-Jul-13
Solitaires	03-Nov-12
Texas Reelers	19-Jul-13
Texoma Squares	01-Jun-13
Tri City Promenaders	26-Jan-13
T-Square Gadabouts	15-Feb-13
Yellow Rockers	18-Apr-13

* * * EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK * * *

Friendship Plus, August 12th

Texas Hall of Fame caller Mike Bramlett put both the veteran and newbie plus dancers through the mill Monday evening at the Friendship Plus dance at Richardson Senior Center. His fast paced drills which, as typical, included more that the most frequently used plus calls, was especially challenging for the newer plus dancers. For most tips there were three squares on the dance floor. All had a good time. The following Swinging Stars attended the dance: the Bondis, Colters, Evantos, Pitts, and the Underwoods.

Roadrunners, August 15th

Swingtime Center in Ft. Worth was the place to be Thursday night for the Roadrunners' Hawaiian Luau dance. Early rounds and rounds between tips were cued by Charles Crockett. But the big draw for the night was veteran caller, Joey Duhamel, of Baskin, LA. Joey lead a workshop and worked on ping pong circulate and a few variations of it. As usual, Joey called smooth flowing tips with a few extra twists. Of special note was a fun version of the grand square that had the heads doing the normal grand square steps while the tails, I mean knot heads, wait..., I mean sides, doing a different assortment of calls that kept them just out of the way of the heads. It's always fun seeing everyone in their Hawaiian attire and the Roadrunners prepared great refreshments including BBQ sandwiches. The Swinging Stars couples at the dance were: the Bondis, Bursons, Pitts, and the Sees.

Texas Reelers, August 16th

Even though the Texas Reelers' Hot August Night Picnic dance was not on our calendar as an official or dance of interest we still had 21 Swinging Stars show up at Richardson Senior Center Friday night. Rounds were cued by Jack von der Heide who expertly catered to both the veteran and newbie round dancers. Fun squares were called by Deborah Carroll-Jones. And Deborah was joined for one tip by her husband, Jon. Members of the Round Up visitation committee were at the Reelers' dance and included several representatives from the Swinging Stars (Bursons, Evantos, and the Trujillos). And a whopping 86% (18 of 21) of the Swinging Stars at the dance reconvened at Chili's for some late night refreshment and fellowship after the dance. The Swinging Stars at the dance were: the Bondis, Bursons, Denisons, Evantos, Kilejians, Pharrs, Pitts, Sees, Smith / Hardin, Trujillos, and C. Wolfe.

Kissin' Kuzzins, August 16th

Eight Swinging Stars visited the Kissin' Kuzzins Friday night. It was an open house dance, welcoming prospective students for the Kuzzins lessons starting in September. Wayne Baldwin and JL Pelton entertained us with their usual great calling and cueing. Everyone had fun with two tips Wayne called to include the prospective students. Swinging Stars visiting were: the Hamms, Loxsoms, Starretts, and the Underwoods. Thanks to Ralph Hamm for the dance details.

Dance of Interest – Rebel Rousers, August 17th

There were 18 Swinging Stars at the Rebel Rousers dance in Richardson Senior Center Saturday night. The theme was Summer Sundaes – ice cream with a myriad of types of sprinkles was served to the dancers. Fun rounds were cued by Christine Hixson and squares were called by Mike Bramlett. Mike, as expected, led the squares through lots of fun call sequences that kept the dancers on their toes. He even worked many references to ice cream into the words of his songs. A highlight of the evening was a very fun mainstream hot hash tip that got progressively faster as the tip progressed – all the dancers I asked said they liked it. Chili's was so good Friday night we went back Saturday night. The Swinging Stars present were: the Bondis, Brandens, Kilejians, Fousts, Harrises, Pitts, Rows, Sees, and Smith / Hardin.

Log Cabin Swingers, August 17th

The Round Up committee paid a visit to the Log Cabin Swingers Saturday night which included several Swinging Stars couples. There were six squares at the dance called by Vernon Jones. There was not a cuer but Vernon did lead a mixer round dance teach which involved learning some dance steps that rotated the dancers in the round. The Swinging Stars present were: P. Amy, the Bursons, Evantos, Trujillos, and C. Wolfe. Lorraine Burson shared the dance details.

* * * COMING EVENTS * * *

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: <u>pjp0901@juno.com</u> ph: 972.843.3991)

Swinging Stars Club Dance, Friday, August 23rd

Location:Shepard Elementary School (1000 Wilson Dr., Plano, TX)Website:www.swingingstars.orgTime:Early rounds 7:30PM / dance - 8:00PMCaller:Wayne BaldwinCuer:Walter BrewerTheme:Take Me Out to the BallgameNotes: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: <u>http://www.nortex.org</u>
- Time: Early rounds 4:00PM / dance 5:00PM 7:00PM
- Notes: Preferably cash and food (especially jelly) collected will be donated to Dallas and Tarrant Counties food bank, wear yellow if you have it, this is a double signature dance

Official – Lone Star Solos, Thursday, August 29th

- Location: Knight of Columbus Hall (10110 Shoreview Rd., Dallas, TX)
- Website: <u>http://www.lonestarsolos.com/</u>
- 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: <u>http://www.trianglesquaresdanceclub.com/</u>
- 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: 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 4905 Hackberry Lane Parker, Texas 75002-5627 <u>Treasurer@swingingstars.org</u> 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 September 13 September 27 October 11 October 25 Bullock, Underwood, Jimison, Foust Sherman, Schumacher*, Pharr, Ramirez Dennison, Rickett*, Hardin/Smith, Maier Gifford, Nejdl, Hamm, McGuire 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.





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:

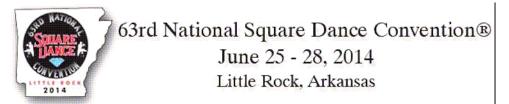
August 23, 2013 - Take Me Out to the Ballgame September 27, 2013 - Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff October 25, 2013 - Boot Scootin' Show Your Colors Ball – Double Deal Dance November 22, 2013 – Shake Your Tail Feathers Dance (Thanksgiving falls on November 28, 2013) December 13, 2013 - Toys & Books for 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.....



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

For information about weekend dances go to our Web Page <u>www.swingingstars.org</u> and click on Weekends. Go to our Facebook Page <u>https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swinging-Stars-Square-Round-Dance-Club</u> - "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: <u>president@swingingstars.org</u> Phones: (972) 325-1144