



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for April 7, 2024

Message from the Presidents

Richard and Jan Covington

Your board will be meeting today, Sunday, to discuss upcoming dances, student graduation and to continue to plan our future lessons and conduct business of the club.

Do you take the American Square Dance magazine? It has been around for years and Buddy Weaver, a Nationally well know Caller, purchased the magazine and is offering an annual subscription for \$17. That's a great bargain for dancers interested in things going on in our favorite activity. They have very interesting articles. The web-site where you can subscribe is

<https://www.americansquaredance.com/>

Here is an excerpt from the most recent edition.... "The fundamental purpose of an SSD-like program: Teaching shorter and simpler classes more frequently results in markedly higher growth for clubs."

As a club I know many of us have not been interested in SSD (an abbreviated Mainstream list). However, it seems that it is something that we must now consider.... "We keep doing the same things over-and-over but we expect different results..." it has been said that this is the definition of insanity.

You would be surprised to know that many of the top callers in DFW have been calling SSD (plus spin-the-top) for two-to-three years now. Those clubs where the caller calls SSD and don't advertise SSD are much more fun, don't you agree. Maybe it's all about perception. We all know that Deborah Carroll Jones has been teaching SSD and she calls a very interesting & fun dance. Ray Savel calls an excellent dance using the SSD list and there are more.

The Proposal by the Board of Governors at Callerlab this year was to the combine Basic 1, Basic 2 and part of the Mainstream Programs and to call it Mainstream. The new Mainstream list would be limited to no more than 50 calls. The remaining calls would be moved into the Plus Program making it a list of no more than 60 calls. Note, there are roughly 110 calls on the combined B1, B2, MS and Plus list now. Thus, the total number will not change up thru the Plus Program. The callers are taking the next eleven months to think and talk about it. It will come to a vote at our 2025 Callerlab Convention and at least another year to determine what calls will make what list and then a third year for clubs to adopt it. Thus, the new Mainstream list is not yet determined and will not be available for a couple of years, I believe we as Swinging Stars don't have that long to wait before adopting a modified list such as SSD. We need to move much quicker... like by our September lessons.

I have opposed the SSD program but after watching things in the square dance world continue to decline, I believe we need to reconsider this as a viable option. Ten years ago, we were a club of 135 members, and we didn't see the need for change. Today we are at 23.

For the current B1, B2 and MS list Callerlab recommends 24 weeks to teach and learn it - that's six months. We have been teaching it in 16 weeks as that is what students will commit to timewise. As a result, and at no fault of the students or the callers, we are introducing them under-prepared to the dance floor and it is frustrating for the new dancers. We see a smaller number join and within a year, those that join either take lessons again or quit. Teaching and dancing the shorter list will better fit the 16-week class schedule. Also, we need at least two, if not three, lessons per year.

That brings us to another issue. Our 1st VPs are responsible for lessons and somehow that became translated to them attending every lesson. Running lessons is not hard as all that is needed is someone to set out the sign-in sheets and layout the students name tags. We added one additional duty and that is to take a copy of the Angel sign-in list by the front desk so they can make a copy. Going forward the 1st VPs will provide a duty-roster sign-up sheet to those willing to be Lesson's Liaison for the evening. We can rotate this duty from week-to-week between the angels and thereby relieve the dreaded obligation of being at lessons every week. We have a core group of angels that are there almost every week anyway so dividing this duty should not be a problem.

We will discuss whether to adopt the SSD list and multiple lessons at our May 19th Club Meeting. Think about it and be there.

Peggy Amy has stepped up and agreed to head our officer nominations and John and Debbie Cave have agreed to serve on the committee. There is room for a couple more people, if you would like to serve. This is a mid-year affirmation of our current officers and our current board plans to return, so the work should be limited. If you had rather sit on the board, you can nominate yourself. Either way you can contact me or Peggy directly.

Jan and I will miss our next Swinging Stars Dance, April 12th. We know that it will be a great one. We will be back for our second April Dance on April 26th. Also, we and the Caves will miss our 04/21 NORTEX meeting. We appreciate Chris & Merry Trujillo and Neven Mulvin for agreeing to be our substitute delegates. This is an important meeting as new NORTEX officers will be elected and a vote will be made as to whether to be an affiliate member of the Texas State Federation.

Speaking of our anniversary dance, look around... we have become a small club. So... every member is needed, and every member will need to sign up for multiple activities. We have signed up to bring a cake, help with set up, help with decorating, greet our visitors, serve cake plus our normal presidential dance responsibilities. I know we are not alone as others have already signed up to help with multiple tasks. Thank you all for all you do to make Swinging Stars the best we can be.

Stolen from an unknown source but I like it....

The top of the hill you are climbing may
not be the end of your journey but rather
giving you a better view of what's to
come!

Due to us being gone for a couple of weeks our next President's Comments will be April 28th.

Till then, have fun dancing and I will see you in a square....

Richard C

2nd Quarter Dues are due starting April 1, 2024

If you normally pay by the quarter you need to pay for 2nd quarter which is \$27.50 per single member and \$55.00 per couple. **If you have not paid your 2nd quarter dues, it is important that you pay ASAP.** April is the month that we have to send an updated roster and NORTEX Dues to NORTEX. So please pay your dues at the next dance or mail a check made out to the Swinging Stars to the treasurer:

Nevin R Mulvin
Treasurer Swinging Stars
3409 Eisenhower Ln
Plano, TX 75023-3933
972-618-0750

May 10, 2024 -- 49th Swinging Stars Anniversary Dance -- Dancing with the Stars

This message is from Lorraine Burson, Chair for our upcoming 49th Anniversary Dance. Hopefully you are aware that it is going to be on May10, 2024. At the end of this newsletter there is a flyer you can read and know more about what is happening. Such as the well-known guest Caller Jet Roberts calling along with our own terrific Caller Charlie Robertson and our wonderful Cues Jan Toms. We feel that this is a winning combination of talent. A dance you will not want to miss. What you will find out in this message is that we will be serving cakes and snacks with coffee and water. Also, we will be having a Money Raffle for \$100. And if you buy a raffle ticket for the money raffle you will have a chance to win 1 of 10 \$20 Gift Certificates to the Red Truck Cafe. Regretfully, our club just isn't large enough to support having a dinner or a salad supper as we did in the past. We will be having signup sheets for all members to help with this special dance. We only have 1 more Swinging Star dances, before May 10, when you will have the opportunity to sign up to help. In case you miss getting signed up at one of our last dances, I will be sending out a standalone message to all club members with the sign-up sheet information. Please reply by emailing to Lorraine@Bursons.us or call 972-396-0941 and volunteer wherever you can to help. I will have signup sheets at our dance on April 12. If you were not there you missed the chance to get signed up early enough to get the position that you would like help doing the most.

Please Call me if you have not already signed up to help! May 10 will be here before you know it.
Lorraine Burson

Message from the 1st Vice Presidents

Charlie and Linda Harris

Mainstream Lessons

Those angels continuing to show up for support, we appreciated you!

Women angels are needed!

Location: Liberty Rec Center
2601 Glencliff Drive
Plano, TX 75075
Mondays 7:15 PM

"Thanks to all" for showing up early to help with setup and stay for tear down.

See you in a square,
Charlie and Linda Harris – 1st VP

2nd VP Report

Dave and Lorraine Burson

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

Banners Captured by the Swinging Stars

Club	Date Captured
Pegasus	3/24/2024

Swinging Stars Banners Out

Club	Date Captured
Tri-City Promenaders	7/14/2023
Triangle Squares	2/23/2024
Rebel Rousers	2/23/2024

EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK

Sunday, March 24 – Pegasus Dance

Callers calling included David Toms, Mike Bramlett, Victoria Bundy, Scott Bennet, Charlie Robertson, Michael Braithwaite and Dave Viera. Other Callers present Glenn Robertson, Trevor Day & Richard Covington. No round dancing but the following cuers present were Jan Toms & Michelle Viera. Swinging Stars in attendance included Peggy Amy, John & Debbie Cave, Linda & Charlie Harris and Richard & Jan Covington. Also, in attendance included Independents Ben & Nina and Ammy, Log Cabin Swinger and Rebel Rousers. John Hurt & Joan Garner, Rebel Rouser Presidents, were present. We secured a replica of their banner. Thankyou Richard Covington for this report.

Of Interest Club Visitation

Sunday, March 24 – CALLERLAB – Pre-Convention Dance

Our Sunday Pre-Callerlab dance was at the Hyatt Regency. The donations will go towards new caller scholarships to attend caller schools. The callers on stage were Charlie Robertson, Mike Seastrom, Jon & Deborah Carroll Jones, Vernon Jones, John Sloper, Darrell Lipscomb and Scott Bennet. Our very own Jan Toms was the cuer. Everyone did a fabulous job. The floor was crowded all night and a great time was had by all. Swinging Stars in attendance were Peggy Amy, Ron & Donita Sees and Richard & Jan Covington. Thankyou Richard Covington for this report.

Of Interest Club Visitation for Plus Dancers

Wednesday, April 3 – Plus 4s

No report.

Official Club Visitation – Banner Retrieval

Friday, April 5 – Triangle Squares – Eclipse Dance

No report.

*** COMING EVENTS ***

To reach the **April Promenade**, click here:

<https://new.nortex.org/nortex/wp-content/uploads/2024-04-Promenade.pdf>

Friday, April 12 – Swinging Stars – Spring Fling

Where: Network Ministries – 1500 International Pkwy #300, Richardson, TX

Caller: Charlie Robertson

Cuer: Jan Toms

Time: Early Rounds 7:30, Dance 8:00

Note: See page 17 of the April Promenade for more information

Official Club Visitation - Banner Raid

Saturday, April 13 – Circle I – Rangers

Where: Heritage Senior Center - - 200 S. Jefferson St, Irving

Caller: Ray Savell

Cuer: Chris Farabaugh

Time: Early Rounds 7:00, Plus 7:30, Grand March 8:00

Note: See page 18 of the April Promenade for more information

Wednesday, April 17 at 11:30 AM -- Ladies Luncheon

The April Ladies Luncheon will be hosted by Peggy Amy at one of Peggy's favorites, The Chocolate Angel Cafe and Tea Room. It is located in the High Street Antique Mall, 800 Central Expressway, Plano, TX. Please REPLY to Peggy Amy at amybpeggy@verizon.net or 972-824-5435 by April 16. Go to <https://chocolateangel.com/> for menu and directions. All current members, associate members, and former members are invited to join us. We would love to visit and "catch up" with you!

Please do not reply to Lorraine. REPLY to Peggy Amy. amybpeggy@verizon.net or 972-824-5435

Official Club Visitation - Banner Raid

Friday, April 19 – Kissin' Kuzzins – 51st Anniversary Dance

Where: Network Ministries – 1500 International Pkwy #300, Richardson, TX

Guest Caller: Ken Burke

Caller: Mike Bramlett

Time: Plus Workshop 7:00 PM, Mainstream Workshop 7:30 PM, First S/D Tip 8:00 PM

Note: See page 21 of the April Promenade for more information

Official Club Visitation – Banner Retrieval

Saturday, April 20 – Rebel Rousers – Spring is in the Air

Where: Richardson Senior Center - - 820 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson, TX

Caller: Mike Bramlett

Cuer: Christine Hixson

Time: Rounds 7:00, Plus Fun Shop 7:30, Dance 8:00

Note: See page 25 of the April Promenade for more information.

Friday, April 26 – Swinging Stars – Celebrate San Jacinto Day

Where: Network Ministries – 1500 International Pkwy #300, Richardson, TX

Caller: Charlie Robertson

Cuer: Jan Toms

Time: Early Rounds 7:30, Dance 8:00

Note: See page 31 of the April Promenade for more information

Of Interest Club Visitation for Round Dancers

Sunday, April 28 – Harvest Holiday – Spring Fun Rounds

Where: Swingtime Center - - 5100 SE Loop 820, Fort Worth

Cuer: Area Instructors

Time: Rounds 2:00 – 5:30 PM

Note: Phases 2, 3, and 4

See page 33 of the April Promenade for more information

* * * OTHER EVENTS * * *

To reach the **April Promenade**, click here:

<https://new.nortex.org/nortex/wp-content/uploads/2024-04-Promenade.pdf>

Sunshine information

From Peggy Amy and Nina Lassiter our Sunshine Reporters

No Sunshine news this week.

Happy Birthday

None this week.

Happy Anniversary

None this week.

Let's keep in touch by sharing news in our Newsletter.

You can email Nina Lassiter Sunshine or Rain, at your convenience. ninalassiter@gmail.com

Or you may call or text 214-769-6032. She always needs any reports (good or bad), by Friday in order to get the report to Dave and Lorraine in a timely manner.

Special dates to put on your calendar

Friday, May 10, 2024 **Swinging Stars 49th Anniversary** Dance

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 4:00 PM **Swinging Stars General Club meeting** at Spring Creek BBQ
270 N Central Expy, Richardson, TX 75080

Friday, October 11, 2024 **Swinging Stars Double Deal** Dance

Friday, November 22, 2024 **Swinging Stars Round up Theme** Dance

Web Master Dave Burson

Be sure to check out our web page: www.swingingstars.org

There is a lot of information about what is going on with the Swinging Stars.

Message from Newsletter Editor

Thank you for making it this far down the newsletter. As we streamlining the newsletter, if we remove something or change something that you liked the way it was, or have any suggestions, please send your comments and suggestions to: newsletter_editor@swingingstars.org Anything sent to that email address will go to the **President of the Swinging Stars** and to the **Newsletter Editor** (Dave Burson).

Dave Burson

Newsletter Editor

Swinging Stars

Email: newsletter_editor@swingingstars.org

Phone: 972-396-0941

See Flyers below





Swinging Stars



SPRING FLING

April 12, 2024

*Honey Pot
Fun Dancing*

Solos Board

*Banners
Lite snacks*

Caller: Charlie Robertson

Cuer: Jan Toms



Early Rounds: 7:30

Square up 8:00

Network Ministries Building

1500 International Pkwy Ste 300 Richardson TX.

Dancers under 18 dance free with paying adults



We dance every 2nd and 4th Fridays



For info: 214-675-6523 or president@swingingstars.org



Visit our web site: www.swingingstars.org



Swinging Stars

49th Anniversary

MAY 10, 2024



Guest Caller: Jet Roberts
Club Caller: Charlie Robertson
Cuer: Jan Toms

Early Rounds 7:00

Grand March 8:00

\$100 Money Raffle with a
chance to win 1 of 10, \$20 Gift
Certificates to Red Truck Cafe

Network Ministries Building

1500 International Pkwy Ste 300

Richardson Tx. 75081

Refreshments

Banners

Singles Board

Honey pot

Dancers under 18 dance free when accompanied by paying adult

Info: 972-396-0941 or President @swinging stars.org

Visit our Website: www.swingingstars.org



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