



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for November 17, 2013

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

The Assisted Listening Device committee completed their investigation, made their recommendation and has placed an order to acquire the transformer. At the Club meeting last Sunday, a committee of men volunteered to investigate which transmitter to purchase. The committee consisted of Charlie Harris, John Barber, Bob Pitts, Fred Underwood and Richard Covington. Their task was to review two units – the Listen and the Williams unit and determine which one was the best purchase & fit for Swinging Stars. The Club approved the expenditure not to exceed \$550 including taxes, shipping & handling. We passed the hat and raised \$71 in donations towards the purchase of a unit. Plus, we will have a donation basket at our next couple of dances or until adequate amount of money is accumulated to cover the purchase. John Barber, our treasurer indicated that we need to wait till 01/01/2014 to disperse the funds. However, it would be great to purchase the unit through donations rather than taking it out of our operating funds.

After a lot of diligent reviewing technical information on line, comparing specs and talking to company representatives as evidenced by the plethora of emails going back-and-forth. The committee unanimously agreed that the Williams is the best choice. The committee was able to put together a deal that reduced the cost of the transmitter to \$277 less the \$71 in donations so far, we only need another \$206 to cover the cost. Charlie Harris put up the money to go ahead and purchase the unit now so that we can have it in use by the December 13th dance. Wow, please join me in saluting the members of the committee for a job well done.

The Williams transmitter is compatible with the Listen & Williams receivers so you may want to investigate them for yourself and make your own decision. However, Club members need to purchase their own receivers and Fred encouraged members to check out the Williams Sound R37N FM receiver. It is a little smaller than the Listen receiver and it automatically seeks out 17 frequencies broadcasted by the transmitter so listeners don't have to fumble with tuning controls. It's also field tunable to match the frequency of your choice. It is digitally synthesized for greater audio clarity and stability. It has a channel-lock capability to prevent accidental channel change. Priced at \$84.99 + ear piece \$14.99 + shipping. You can purchase it at www.audiolinks.com. I included the flyer on the Listen unit in last week's newsletter. Fred also indicated that they have the analog Listen LR200 at \$76 + ear piece + shipping. You will note that it only has three channels and the batteries have to be removed to move a sliding selector switch to change the channel.

I attached information for the Listen Receivers to last week's newsletter. Note the following information on the Williams Receiver. Please note if you can find six or more interested persons you can lower the price from \$99.88 to \$88 or so.

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	EACH	TOTAL
  <u>Williams Sound PPA R37N - Williams Sound Single Channel Receiver (No Earphones or Batteries)</u>	1	\$80.50	\$80.50
  <u>Williams Sound EAR 022 - Williams Sound Surround Earphone</u>	1	\$19.38	\$19.38
			\$0.00
FREE Ground SHIPPING [WIL-PPA-R37N]			
			\$0.00
		Tax:	
			\$99.88
		Total:	

The quarterly Nortex meeting mentioned to us a couple of dance opportunities that are coming up and we want to share these with you. December 8th is the Toys for Tots Dance sponsored by Nortex. It will be held in Richardson at the intersection of HWY 75 and Arapaho at the Richardson Civic Center. The event will kick off with a start time at 2:30 - 4:00 PM with a new dancer dance (Formula 51 dance). Next, there will be plus and mainstream from 4:30-5:30. Rounds and mainstream will follow until 8:00 PM. Just bring a cash donation and/or unwrapped toys for your entry. This will be a community event with many visitors from the area. It is a time to share our passion for square dancing and round dancing. Swinging Stars will also be entering a Christmas Wreath in the contest. The club that wins will receive twelve quarter page ads in the promenade. All of the information is in this month's promenade. Thirteen of the local callers will be calling including our own Wayne Baldwin.

Also, mark your calendars for January 26th. This will be the annual Singing Call of the Year dance and the Round Dance Cued Dance of the year at Swingtime . It is 1\$ per vote and you can print the ballet out of the Promenade. We will have ballets at the dance this Friday.

Richard and Jan

DANCE LESSONS

The students have been invited to join us for the rest of our dances this year which is only two – November 22nd which is our Shake Your Tail Feathers Thanksgiving Dance and December 13th, our Toys For Tots. We have extended invitations to 30 students to join our club – those that have dance partners and those that have stayed with the program and are on target to complete the program. We will be taking them to as many new dancer dances and clubs as possible till they gain a level of comfort with the mainstream moves.

The students enjoyed the leadership of the following Angels: George Loxsom, Gary & Peggy Amy, Mark & Karen Hawkins. Jim & Knarik Bondi, Ron & Donita See, Lucy & Ralph Hamm, Barry & Helen Feldman, Roger & Janelle Row, Adam & Jean Sobotka, Dan & Kathy Mosher, Dave & Mary Colter, Marcy Sherman, and Dave & Lorraine Burson.

We have 30 students whom we expect to graduate on December 17.

Here is a list of students and their home city: Maybe you'll see a neighbor or acquaintance.

Jerry & Kay Barnett - Sachse; Mary Bonkiewicz - Plano; Mike & Melanie Burchfiel - Frisco; Lon Bushell - McKinney; Mary Ann Cagle - Carrollton; Louise Duncan - Allen; Delores Dvorak - Plano; Bob & Kathy Estep - Plano; David & Marguerite Evans - Plano; Jim & Linda Flack - Plano; Linda Floyd - Plano; Willis & Pat Friesen - Frisco; Dennis & Valerie Gelbaum - Plano; Sharon Goddard - Sachse; Jim & Katie Halvorson - McKinney; Ivan & Margertree Holmes - Wylie; David & Cher Jacobs - Dallas; Dominique Kennedy - Dallas; Joel & Marilyn Kern - Plano; Walt & Jan Knochenmus - Allen; Ann Koenig - McKinney; Jeff & Martha Lloyd - Sachse; Mark & Roxana Mars - Plano; Steve & Debbie Sherrell - Plano; Van Thoreson - Plano.

Mark & Karen Hawkins, 1ST VP



Anniversary Dance Report

We want to thank everyone that has already signed up to help with our Anniversary Dance. We feel very fortunate to be members of the best square dance club in the world. Well....at least NORTEX. Everyone is so helpful and when asked to help, he or she always says, "what can I do to help".

We have had a good response from volunteers signing-up for the duties necessary to have a successful dance. All of the Desserts are filled and need several more Salads. We have all the Honey Pot and Money Raffle time slots filled. We are in need of volunteers for the Decorations, Beverage Service and Food Service Committees.

We only have 3 more Swinging Stars club dances before our Anniversary Dance. Please take the time to sign up. If you are not going to be at one of our dances call Lorraine 972-396-0841 or email at Lorraine@Bursons.us and volunteer.

A special **Thank You** to Jeff and Anne Stuart, they graciously said "Yes" when I ask them to host the after party. The after party will be at their home directly after the dance and all is cleaned up. Please bring a light snack and a beverage of your choice. Their address is in the club roster. If you need a roster contact Dave at Dave@Bursons.us.

Here is a little introduction to Brad Caldwell. He is the Guest Caller that will be sharing the mic with Wayne and Walter.

Brad Caldwell has been a caller since 1988 and has been calling for the Sundancers since they were organized in 1997. The Sundancers have grown from a Mainstream beginner's class to over 140 members in 2008 with a great deal of credit going to Brad. He is very patient with the new dancers and has a smooth technique of guiding you through the square dance step. He also has a beautiful singing voice and can do impersonations of Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, and many more. Brad is a national caller and has called square dancing throughout the country. Brad was born and raised in Texas and prefers to live and work here in his home state. When Brad was a young boy, his parents would take him to square dancing. After the second dance Brad knew he wanted to become a caller. He has been calling dances for over 20 years, and by his enthusiasm you know he enjoys it very much. Brad married Paula in 1999 and moved to Georgetown with children Michael, Andrew, and Randy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign-Up sheets for the 2014 anniversary dance in January will be at the sign up table this Friday night. Please make your selections early as we need everyone to pitch in and help.

We want to encourage everyone to tip generously at our bi-monthly Mama's pizza party as these folks provide us really good service and they stay late two Friday night a month for us. We get there after their normal closing. Also, we hope to put together a Holiday Season tip for them again this year.

Sondra and Mel, A big thank you in advance, for picking and delivery the 'cheer' for the Stars holiday party!

SQUARE-L-ROUND 47TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DANCE (NEW LOCATION)

ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY

Mainstream with some Plus included in tips and Plus tips.

Nov 28-31, 2013 (informal dance evening of 28th for early arrivals)

Lake Murray, OK Ken Bower, Melton Luttrell, Jay King, John & Karen Herr.

\$35 per dancer, \$70 per couple

For more info contact Vicki Evanto 972.578.8527

(Flyer online is for 2012 and has not been updated)

Jim Bondi writes the following:

We really hope many of you will join us at "Friendship Plus" dances. They're held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month starting at 7 PM in the Richardson Senior Center on Arapaho ~ 1 mi east of Coit. Note: This is NOT the same format as "ADD+" dances which are targeted at experienced, strong plus dancers. Quite the contrary, "Friendship Plus" is targeted at any level of plus dancers, even "newbies," who need more floor time and a supportive environment in which to improve their skills.

We've been to several Friendship Plus dances recently and enjoy them immensely. How do they compare to the "Plus 4s" dances many attend on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays? The two dances emphasize different things. Plus 4s gives you both "regular" plus and some "dance-by-definition" plus. During the latter, the pace may slow if any struggling dancers need special attention. At Friendship Plus you get lots of "regular plus" at a pace you'll experience at most club dances across the metroplex. Personally, we find that these two all-plus functions complement each other well. Partake of them both and you WILL become a better plus dancer.

We sometimes hear new dancers "worrying out loud" that Mike calls too fast or won't adjust his calling level to the skill level on the floor. We disagree. Especially at Friendship Plus, Mike will help you out if you need it. At our first Friendship Plus dance, our square struggled repeatedly with Relay the Deucey. Mike saw this and, during the next break, offered spontaneous instruction on Relay the Deucey -- just to our square. Indeed, the stated mission of Friendship Plus is to welcome and encourage all levels of plus dancers.

Won't you please try Friendship Plus? You'll be glad you did.

Jim Bondi

*** * * From Your 2nd VPs * * ***

Check off another busy week of dancing across the Metroplex by many of the Swinging Stars. We had three visitations on school nights and another three on the weekend – catch up on all the details below.

This week brings the Swinging Stars ladies luncheon (email Terri at tjtpitts@sbcglobal.net to join this cadre of renegades if you haven't already), a club dance Friday night so you can Shake Your Tail Feathers, and a dancer's choice Saturday night ... either the Dixie Chainers for their Olde Tyme Dance or the Tri-City Promenaders for their Gospel Singing Dance. So get out there this weekend and have some dancing fun.

Our 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
Decatur 8'ers	5-Oct-13
Dixie Chainers	28-Sep-13
Log Cabin Swingers	4-May-13
Lone Star Solos	28-Mar-13
North Star 8	09-Feb-13
Roadrunners	07-Nov-13
Texas Reelers	15-Nov-13
Texoma Squares	01-Jun-13
Tri-City Promenaders	26-Jan-13
T-Square Gadabouts	15-Feb-13
Yellow Rockers	18-Apr-13

Swinging Stars Banners Out

Club	Date Captured
Rebel Rousers	25-Oct-13

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

Friendship Plus, November 11th

Nineteen Swinging Stars visited Friendship Plus in Richardson on Monday. Veteran Texas Hall of Fame caller, Mike Bramlett, was in top form all evening, calling stream after stream of polished choreography. To keep all dancers engaged, he offered a good mix of pacing and difficulty, occasionally slowing down or revisiting a move if needed by newer plus dancers. One of our new Swinging Stars callers, Richard Covington, also called one tip, pleasantly surprising dancers with how quickly he's progressing and growing in his new avocation. All attendees had a great time. The visiting Swinging Stars were: the Amys, Bivens, Bondis, Covingtons, Colters, Dennisons, T. Evanto, Moshers, Sees, and the Starretts. Thanks to Jim Bondi for sharing the dance details.

Lone Star Solos, November 14th

A square of Swinging Stars visited the Lone Star Solos Thursday night for their new student dance. Chris Farabaugh led the rounds and Dave Viera called the squares which included a workshop where he let the new dancers choose the call to work. Both Chris and Dave did a good job keeping the dancers entertained. The Lone Star Solos prepared a wonderful spread of chili and desserts. Everyone had a great time. The visiting Swinging Stars were: Bursons, Covingtons, and the Pitts and new students Bob and Kathy Estep.

Double Plus, November 14th

Four Swinging Stars visited Double Plus at Swingtime Center in Fort Worth for all-plus dancing. Ray Savell, guest caller for the evening, began with a workshop featuring two old-time calls, Cross Trail Thru (To Your Corner) and Remake the Thar. Ray then continued challenging dancers for 2 more hours with fast paced patter and singing calls. Both he and his wife entertained dancers during breaks and also sang a duet for one call. All present had a terrific time. Visiting Swinging Stars were the Bondis and Sees. Jim Bondi provided the dance information.

Dance of Interest, Texas Reelers, November 15th

A whopping 30 Swinging Stars plus 8 of our students visited the Texas Reelers Friday night. The dance was a new dancer dance with a Salute Veterans theme which brought out the red, white, and blue ensembles en masse. Jack von der Heide manned the rounds and Deborah Carroll-Jones called the squares. The visiting Swinging Stars included: the Amys, Bondis, Bursons, Covingtons, Feldmans, Hamms, Harrisers, Lassiters, Loxsoms, Pharrs, Pitts, Smith / Hardin, Sees, Sherman, Sobotkas, and the Starretts. We also had many of our students at the dance including: Bob and Kathy Estep, Jim and Katy Halvorson, Jeff and Martha Lloyd, Joel and Marilyn Kern, Jim and Linda Flack, and Steve and Debbie Sherrell. And these guys all danced great.

Triangle Squares, November 15th

Four Swinging Stars and one of our students joined the Triangle Squares for their dance Friday night. Both the rounds and squares were cued and called by Toby Thomason. Toby did a little bit of old time dancing as he integrated the call, Dip and Dive, into the squares. The dancers enjoyed a baked potato dinner. The Swinging Stars attendees included the Hawkins and Colters and student dancer, Ann Koenig. Thanks to the Hawkins for sharing the dance details.

Official, Dixie Chainers, November 16th

A dozen and a half Swinging Stars visited the Dixie Chainers for their 55th anniversary dance in Farmers Branch Saturday night. They had an impromptu red, white, and blue theme since their dance hall was still adorned with incredible decorations from the Veterans Day celebration which included hundreds of red, white, and blue balloons, military banners, and flags. Rounds were cued by Jack von der Heide who expertly catered to both newbie and veteran round dancers. The squares were executed by the full suite of Jones: club caller Vernon Jones and close family Jon Jones and Deborah Carroll-Jones. Deborah opened with an inspiring version of the Star Spangled Banner. Then the trio kept the squares hopping with many lively tunes all night. The Dixie Chainers had a delicious array of crock pot treats and desserts for the dancers. The Swinging Stars at the dance were: P. Amy, the Bursons, T. Evanto, Harrisers, Hawkins, Heintzes, Pitts, Sees, Smith / Hardin, and C. Wolfe. We didn't snag one of their banners because we already have one.

*** * * COMING EVENTS * * ***

Ladies Luncheon, Tuesday, November 19th

Location: BJ's Restaurant (1101 N. Central Expressway, Plano, TX)

Website: <http://www.bjsbrewhouse.com/>

Time: Lunch – 11:00am

Hostess: Terri Pitts – RSVP if you can attend at (972) 392-4325

Swinging Stars, Friday, November 22nd

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

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

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

Caller: Wayne Baldwin

Cuer: Walter Brewer

Theme: Shake Your Tail Feathers

Of Interest, Tri-City Promenaders, Saturday, November 23rd

Location: Brookside Center (1244 Brookside Dr., Hurst, TX)
Website: <http://www.tricitypromenaders.com/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / grand march – 8:00PM
Callers: Paul Kinsey and Bobby Willis
Cuer: Chris Farabaugh
Theme: Thanksgiving and All Gospel Singing Dance

Of Interest, Dixie Chainers, Saturday, November 23rd

Location: Farmers Branch Senior Center (14055 Dennis Lane, Farmers Branch, TX)
Website: <http://www.dixiechainers.com/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / grand march – 7:30PM
Caller: Vernon Jones
Cuer: Jack von der Heide
Theme: Olde Tyme dance

Of Interest, Lone Star Solos, Friday, November 29th

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall (10110 Shoreview Rd., Dallas, TX)
Website: <http://www.lonestarsolos.com/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / grand march – 7:30PM
Caller: Dave Viera
Cuer: Chris Farabaugh
Notes: 49th anniversary dance

Of Interest, Texas Reelers, Saturday, November 30th

Location: Canyon Creek Theatre (3901 Northstar Rd., Richardson, TX)
Website: <http://www.texasreelers.org/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / grand march – 8:00PM
Callers: Deborah Carroll-Jones and Jon Jones
Cuer: Jack von der Heide
Theme: Off Broadway
Notes: 38th anniversary dance, wear black and white

*** * * SPECIAL WEEKEND DANCE OPPORTUNITIES * * ***

Rhythm Winter Festival, January 3-4

Location: Waco Convention Center (Hilton Waco, 113 S. University Parks Dr., Waco, TX)
Website: http://swingingstars.org/Winter_Festival_Flyer_2014.pdf
Callers: Dee Dee Dougherty, Mike Seastrom, Ken Bower, Gary Shoemake, Wade Driver, Marshall Flippo
Cuer: Mark Prow

A GRAM Committee MINUTE...

It's Christmas Time and
time for **shopping and giving!!**

Ways to *give away* those
business/coupon cards:

- Put them in your Christmas Cards
- Use them as Stocking Stuffers
- Leave them on service counters
- Place them on church bulletin boards

Don't have any? Go to the following.....

www.lifesjustadance.com
[then click on GRaM Pub](#)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not already done so, the dues for the Fourth 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.

Please make your check payable to Swinging Stars

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

REFRESHMENTS DUTY AND INFORMATION

November 22 **Loxson**, McClure, Row, Whipple
December 13 **Mosher**, Stuart, Evanto, Harris
December 27 Holiday for Everyone

*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.

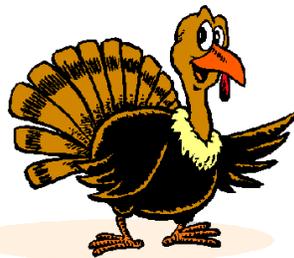
Refreshment Duty Reminders:

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 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.

Upcoming Advertised Swinging Stars Theme Dances



November 22, 2013

Shake Your Tail Feathers

Thanksgiving Dance



December 13, 2013

Toys & Books for Kids

Holiday Ball



January 31, 2014

Dancing with the Star

Season II



Friday, November 8th – New Dancers Dance

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:

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)

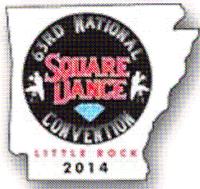
Saturday, October 31, 2015 – Double Deal Halloween Dance (Fifth Saturday)*

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.

Remember our Sunshine person is Debbie Piziali and you can email her at debbie@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.

RICHARD & JAN COVINGTON

Swinging Stars, President

Email: president@swingingstars.org

Phones: (972) 325-1144