



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for March 10, 2013

Presidential Ramblings

Our Swinging Stars club dance Friday, March 8th was, as usual, much fun for all. We had 83 Swinging Stars and 8 visitors. It is notable that the club received our 180 badge for club visitations and Dave and Lorraine Burson received their 300th dance dangle. Margaret Archey won the honey pot.

Plans are in the works for “March Madness” – square dance style. Wear your favorite college jersey or shirt as we prepare to show our colors on March 22nd. This will be a great time to be casual but with a theme. We can’t wait to see all of the schools represented. Be sure to get your picture made with your teams (those wearing colors of your school)!

We can hear the engines revving up as we prepare for the “Formula 51” dances in April and our theme for April 26th is “Area 51” - it is totally “Out of this World,” so find some antennas and/or an exciting cosmic costume and prepare for a fantastic time. We have four couples in mainstream lessons that are eager to dance with the Swinging Stars. I know you will roll out the red carpet as they join us on April 12th and 26th. Our theme dance is already on the visitation calendar for several area clubs.

Continuing the series on “Top Ten Reasons for Round Dancing and Why We Round Dance – join me in thanking Gary Amy for the following:

10. It gives you a chance to hold your sweet honey in your arms.
9. Gets two people closer together ... mentally, spiritually, figuratively, and physically.
8. It's fun.
7. It may save your life, or at least from broken bones...especially as we get older and need to hold each other up.
6. It makes you feel like Cinderella, Peter Pan, Michael Jackson and Fred Astaire all rolled up in one gliding over the floor, flying thru the air, moon walking, and tapping your cane.
5. People watching you will oooh and ahhh.
4. You will be doing things you never dreamed you could do.
3. It gives you something to look forward to each week.
2. It improves your memory.
1. It gives you a chance to hold your sweet honey in your arms.

Anecdote:

Peggy and I agreed early on that we'd NEVER round dance. We just didn't see how we could find time to learn all those steps and join another club, a round dance club. We were square dancing 3 nights a week and didn't want to give that up. We knew if we started we'd have to round dance at least once a week to keep up.

But, just to make sure, we attend one Waltz lesson to see how it would be. It was a disaster. We were "taught" two waltzes that night. But Peggy and I mostly just stumbled over each other's feet. We couldn't even do the box step.

We were at a square dance weekend in Oklahoma one Thanksgiving weekend with another couple. It was announced that a free introductory round dance lesson was offered at 8:30 on Saturday morning. The other couple expressed an interest and said they'd be going to take the lessons. We agreed to go down and watch them.

Saturday morning, we went down, but they didn't show up. We were there... Peggy even got up and going early enough to make the 8:30 time. The cuer was very persuasive and sold us on the Cha-cha. So we took the lesson and were hooked. But what could we do about it when we got back to Plano. EVERYONE starts with Waltz and Two-step.

Fortunately (or unfortunately as may be the case) John Brewer, now Walter, was offering beginning lessons within a month of our return home and he was starting with Cha and Rumba. The rest is history. We didn't take Waltz lessons until over a year later. John (Walter) did Cha and Rumba followed by Jive and Two-step. We did finally learn the Waltz box....but only after doing the 2-step box (which is different).

As most anyone in the club knows, we never regretted our accident. Our advice: 2-Step out and round dance. Anyone can do it.

Thank you, Gary, for sharing...

The fun truly never stops for our Square Dancers; Swinging Stars will host Plus Lessons at the Carpenter Rec. Center, 6701 Coit Road, Plano Texas beginning Tuesday, June 11th. We are excited about this opportunity to help our dancers improve their square dance skills. Our teacher, of course is greatest and best caller, Wayne Baldwin. We appreciate his diligence in helping us continue to learn and grow as dancers and as a club. If you are already a Plus Dancer and want to sharpen your skills, this is a great opportunity to become better. I want to encourage you to invite your friends from other clubs to join us for lessons as it can only help to strengthen our Square Dance community.

“Formula 51”

Ladies and Gentlemen, start your engines..... We are quickly approaching the month of April, right after March. Are you ready? You all can dance mainstream but how well do you know the basic calls, the first 51 calls? Our callers in the NORTEX area promise a challenging month of Formula 51 calls.



Swinging Stars will offer “Formula 51” dances during the month of April on the 12th and 26th. These dances will be great for our current students. The dance on the 26th will be "Out of this World."

NEED YOUR INPUT

We will have a brief meeting following our March 22nd dance. I promise to keep it short, depending on discussion. We need to approve a couple of expenditures for our January 31, 2014 Anniversary Dance... "Dancing with the Stars' Season Two."

Interest has grown in our Round Dance Lessons and we now have 6 to 8 couples either signed up or have indicated they will take lessons. Don't miss out on the fun, make a commitment today and sign-up round dance lessons beginning on March 19. So that we can get a head count, contact Ralph and Lucy Hamm and they know that you plan to take lessons. They would love to talk to you and discuss any questions or concerns that you might have. Email: rehamm45@gmail.com; Phone: (214) 872-7219. Register online at <https://parks.planotx.org/econnect>; or by phone at (972) 208-8087; or in person at Carpenter Recreation Center, 6701 Coit Road;. Course number is # 140236 CAR. For additional information, see the flyer on the Swinging Stars website: http://swingingstars.org/ChoreographedBallroom_LessonFlyer.pdf

If you have any suggestions please send me an email – President@SwingingStars.org – I will use discretion and my share it with the executive committee and or the club, however, I will ask your permission before doing so. Please indicate whether you wish to remain anonymous to anyone but Jan and me.

SWINGING STARS JACKETS

Thank you Ralph and Lucy Hamm for modeling your Swinging Stars Jackets at our dance Friday night... you both did a great job... have you considered taking up modeling?

I am sure you have seen a number of our members wearing their Swinging Stars Blue Jackets with Embroidery Lettering and some of you have asked about getting one of your own. Well...we are in luck.

Note the following details & pricing:

Satin jacket - kasha lined (as before) with (2) slash pockets
Color - solid royal blue shell, knit collar & cuffs
Embroidery - left chest with small logo and first name personalization

Pricing: (includes sales tax - f.o.b. swinging stars)

	<u>15 units</u>	<u>20 units</u>	<u>25 units</u>
Sm – XL	\$59.34 unit	\$58.89 unit	\$56.35 unit
2XL	\$62.32 unit	\$61.86 unit	\$61.35 unit

Now, you may be one of those that have asked, why would I want a club jacket, it just hangs on the back of a chair when we are dancing. The answer is simply that you want to show your Club colors and that you are proud to be a "jacket-wearing-member" of the Swinging Stars. That, and they look really neat. Just to clarify, you do not have to buy as a couple, you can buy one for yourself, but I would not recommend leaving your spouse out, unless you enjoy sleeping on the couch.

Please contact Mark & Karen Hawkins, First VP's, [972-436-4868](tel:972-436-4868) or 1stVP@swingingstars.org to place your order – the size can be confirmed when they come out with samples – as soon as we have 15 units committed, we will arrange for the vendor to come to a club dance for sizing. We have twelve committed and need three more.

* * * FROM YOUR 2nd VPs * * *

Here are a few thoughts on good club visitation practices that will ensure our club is well thought of when we visit other clubs or entertain visitors at our club dances:

- When we have visitors to our club take a minute to introduce yourselves and say hello – be friendly
- Invite visitors to our club to join you in squares
- When we visit other clubs don't just form Swinging Stars squares all night – branch out and dance with folks from other clubs
- Don't dance with the same couples in a square over and over – there are likely others who would like to dance with you or other couples in that square
- Strive to be open and inclusive with guests and members

These are just a few good thoughts, none of them new, that will improve the dance experience all of us whether visiting other clubs or entertaining visitors. Since visitors are vital to the health of square dance clubs we want them to leave happy and want to return.

* * * EVENTS FROM THE PAST WEEK * * *

Official Visitation – Diamond Jubileers, Saturday, Mar 9th

Two Swinging Stars couples visited the Diamond Jubileers Mardi Gras 52nd anniversary dance at Swingtime Center in Ft. Worth. The dance hall was beautifully decorated and was complemented by the Mardi Gras extravagant dance attire in purple, green, and gold colors. Fun round dances were cued by Mel Neuman. The square dancers were treated to a quartet of talented callers including club caller Paul Kinsey and three guest callers: Rick Smith, Jon Jones, and Deborah-Carroll Jones. With this band of callers, as expected, we were treated to quite the array of entertaining dance numbers. Paul's health is improving and it was fun to dance to his calling again. The dancers were treated to a red beans and rice dinner with amazing desserts. Thanks to the Swinging Stars who attended: the Bondis and the Pittses.

* * * COMING EVENTS * * *

Dance of Interest – Kissin' Kuzzins, Friday, Mar 15th

Location: Garland Senior Activity Center (600 Avenue "A", Garland, TX)
Website: <http://www.kissinkuzzins.org/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / Workshop – 7:30PM
Callers: Wayne Baldwin
Cuer: JL Pelton
Notes: Theme is "Celebrate Everything Green"

Dance of Interest – Rebel Rousers, Friday, Mar 16th

Location: Richardson Senior Center (820 W Arapaho Rd, Richardson, TX)
Website: <http://www.rebelrousersdallas.com>
Time: Early rounds – 7:30PM / Grand march – 8:00PM
Callers: Mike Bramlett
Cuer: Christine Hixson
Notes: Theme is "Riverdance – St. Patrick's Day"

Ladies Luncheon – Wednesday, Mar 20th

Location: Breadwinners Café (4021 Preston Road, Plano)
Website: (www.breadwinnerscafe.com)
Time: 11:30AM
Hostess: Peggy Amy (amybpeggy@verizon.net / Ph. 972.612.4934)
Notes: Let Peggy know by Monday, Mar 18th if you plan to attend

Club Dance – Swinging Stars, Friday, Mar 22nd

Location: Shepard Elementary School (1000 Wilson Dr., Plano, TX)
Website: <http://swingingstars.org/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:30PM / Dance – 8:00PM
Caller: Wayne Baldwin
Cuer: Walter Brewer
Theme: March Madness – wear your favorite college team sport jersey

Official Visitation – Cotton Pickin’ Squares, Saturday, Mar 23rd

Location: L-3 Recreation Center (10001 Jack Finney Blvd. Greenville, TX)
Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/in2/CottonPickinSquares/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / Grand march – 8:00PM
Caller: Mike Bramlett
Cuer: Christine Hixson
Notes: 19th anniversary dance – Picnic in the Park

Student Hoedown – Lone Star Solos, Thursday, Mar 28th

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall (10110 Shoreview Road, Dallas, TX)
Website: <http://www.lonestarsolos.com/>
Time: Early rounds – 7:30PM / Grand march – 8:00PM
Caller: Dave Viera
Cuer: Christine Hixson
Notes: New dancer dance, calls 1-40, students FREE

*** * * SPECIAL CLUB OPPORTUNITIES * * ***

Canceled – Swinging Stars Bus Trip to Mineola Saturday, Mar 23rd

We are disappointed to inform you that the bus trip had to be canceled since we could not fill enough seats to pay for the bus. Given this, we have decided to change the club visitation dance to an Official Visitation to the Cotton Pickin’ Squares in Greenville to support their anniversary dance (see details below).

Some of us will still visit the East Texas Square and Round Dance Association “It’s GOLDen East Texas – 50 Years of Square Dancing” Festival in Mineola. We plan to go for the morning and afternoon dances, do some shopping and lunch in historic downtown Mineola, and then head to Greenville (1 hour drive) for their dance.

The event schedule is at: <http://etsrda.com/ETSRDAannualfestivals.html>.

13th Annual Swing into Spring Plus Weekend with the Log Cabin Swingers, Apr 5-7th

Location: Promenade Hall (1210 N. Tool Highway 274, Tool, TX)
Website: <http://www.logcabinsquaredanceclub.com/swingintospring2013.pdf>
Caller: Jerry Storey
Cuer: Walter Brewer
Notes: Breakfast Sunday morning

51th Annual Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival, June 6-9th

Location: San Marcos, TX

Website: http://www.squaredancetx.com/st_festival.html

Notes: Fun for beginners and advanced square and round dancers

62nd National Square Dance Convention, June 26-29th

Location: Oklahoma City, OK

Website: <http://www.62nsdc.com>

Notes: For beginners and advanced square and round dancers, national conventions don't get much closer than this!

EXHIBITION

Ruth Murphy, the daughter of Al and Jean Jesse, previously served a number of positions in NORTEX. Ruth has a group that does riding therapy for special needs kids program near Scurry, TX. They are holding a fund raiser on Saturday March 23rd and she is interested in having a square dance demonstration sometime during the day - probably the afternoon. We need at least one but preferably two squares. We will be dancing inside on a stage and the room is the size of a bar. Scurry is about 10 miles southwest of Kaufman off of Hwy 175. I have asked for more details which I will share when received.

FRIENDSHIP DANCE

Friendship Dance with the Rockwall Squares is planned for 5/10/2013 at Shepard Elementary. We are making plans and will be sharing information soon.

MAINSTREAM LESSONS

What a great showing of angels. We had twenty Swinging Stars at lessons this week. Thank you to the following: Delukes, Rows, Fousts, Covingtons, Barbers, Bullocks, Bondis, Kilejians, Bursons and Shinavars. The Swinging Stars have four couples that are taking lessons at the Richardson Senior Center and they really appreciate the turn out as it helps them feel like part of the club already. If you have an opportunity, go by and introduce yourselves. Tell them how happy we are, that they are future Swinging Stars. Lessons are on Tuesdays at 7:00 and last till 9:00.

SWINGING STARS MENDING

John Smith is recovering from an auto accident that he had on Monday, March 4th. John was bruised up but came to the dance Friday, 03/09 and danced like nothing had happened. Good job John.

Helen Feldman is recovering from a broken ankle. The Feldmans will not be dancing for about 2 more months but will "visit" at our dances when possible. Barry brought Helen to the dance Friday, 03/09 so they could visit with all of their SS friends.

Coleta Lewis had rotator cuff surgery and they won't be dancing until around May or so.

It was great to see Royce and Betty Wheaton at the dance Friday, 03/09. Their daughter brought them as they are not able to drive or go anywhere without another person helping them out. Right now, she is able to stay with them. Call or write them periodically to encourage them during this recovery period. We want to see them back on the dance floor soon.

Peggy Amy is recovering from a fractured shoulder but came to the dance on 03/09 and even managed to dance a tip – how do you do that with a broken shoulder???

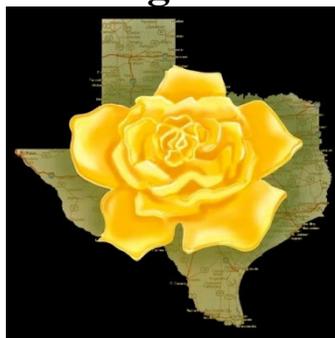
Catherine is rehabbing from her knee surgery and hopes to be back dancing at some point in the future. Her knee is bone-on-bone and still a little unstable. I understand that she makes it to the ladies luncheon.

Let's rally around and give these folks some love. If you know of any Swinging Stars on the mend, contact Debbie Piziali: 214-552-9802; debbie@piziali.dv.org; 6616 Estados Dr., Parker, TX 75002-6800

ROUND DANCE LESSONS

The Swinging Stars Round Dance Lessons start Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 PM with instructors JL and Linda Pelton at Carpenter Recreation Center. Lessons will last eleven weeks and will include –cha and rumba. This will be a great opportunity for interested couples to enter the tremendously enjoyable activity of round dancing.

Roundup Theme for 2013 "Celebrating Texas' Heritage - The Yellow Rose of Texas"



REFRESHMENTS DUTY AND INFORMATION

(Note there have been changes. Please review)

March 22	Whipple, Meyer, Row, Pharr
April 12	Stuart, Rose, Shinavar, Bivins
April 26	Loven, Hursey, Hamm, Carter
May 10	Hawkins, Harris, McClure, Whitaker
May 24	Pitts, Feldman, DeLuke, Jung

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.

Schedule of advertised Swinging Stars Theme Dances thru May 2013

March 22, 2013



March Madness

April 26, 2013



Area 51

May 10, 2013



Fiesta Friendship

Swinging Stars 39th Anniversary Dance is in the planning.

Chairpersons Dave & Lorraine Burson

The date is set for 01/31/2014 at All Saints Catholic Church in Richardson, TX

Caller: Brad Caldwell

(pending approval of the club)

We will have a quick Club meeting following our March 22nd dance. Your board needs your approval for the expenditures. This will be an exciting anniversary dance. It should be well attended with it being held on a fifth Friday; at a great venue and with great callers and callers.



Tuesday, March 19 Swinging Star Round Dance Lessons

Friday, March 22 – Brief club meeting following our March Madness Dance (expenditures approvals requested)

Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 PM – Club Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ on Hwy 75

Tuesday, June 11 Plus Lessons

Tuesday, August 27 Mainstream Lessons

For information about weekend dances go to our Web Page www.swingingstars.org and click on Weekends.

RICHARD & JAN COVINGTON

Swinging Stars, President

Email: president@swingingstars.org

Phones: (972) 325-1144