



Swinging Stars

Square and Round Dance Club

Newsletter for September 15, 2013

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

One of the most exciting activities a club can do is to have lessons for new students. We all love to watch them learn and develop as new dancers. Of course, the purpose of lessons is to bring other potential dancers into the “sport” that we all enjoy and get them to the point that they have covered all of the mainstream calls and are ready to join the club. This allows us to grow and refresh as a club. It is great to see the excitement of new dancers!

It would probably be easier for the caller to complete a set of lessons without “help” but here are a few of the reasons that “angels” are an important component of lessons for any club.

- A club is defined by its members and as such we are the ambassadors for Swinging Stars. Most of us love meeting new people and almost all of us do not like being thrown into a situation where we are the “newbies.” Thus, the better job we do at getting to know each student, the better the odds are that they will integrate nicely into the club. This process takes just a few weeks for some and much longer for others.
- Many of those taking lessons do so because they have been invited by members of Swinging Stars. We, Jan and I, lost a couple-of-couples because we invited them to come to lessons and got them started but we did not stick with them throughout lessons (due other obligation). They never made it to the “joining-the-club” phase...maybe they never would even with our sticking with them through lessons. However, they made a comment to someone who continued to attend lessons that indicate they felt slighted.
- Relationships are the key in any organization and this is especially true for social organizations. Class members, students, are our guests and visitors and to go the next step, become members, they need to know and enjoy dancing and being with us. It is great when we have students come visit one of our dances while they are taking lessons. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words. One of the couples that Mark and Marcy Sherman brought to lessons visited our Swinging Stars Dance this past Friday night. They loved and appreciated it. We need to invite the others to come but it will be best for them to come in small numbers so that we can give them personal attention and keep our normal activities as normal as possible.

Bottom line, Angels are critical to successful lessons which lead to club membership when they make that big-step from classes-to-dances. We appreciate all of your help and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday nights whenever possible.

Lessons of another kind - The Lone Star Caller’s College in Arlington, Texas finished our second weekend of three (four of six total days). Special thanks goes out Dave & Mary Colter, they came all the way from Gunter,

TX to angel the callers class for a couple hours on Sat. Other angels came from various clubs throughout the metro-plex.

We take off this coming weekend and we finish our third weekend September 28th & 29th. We will be hosting a free dance from 3:30 – 5:30 at the Maverick's Athletic Club, 1919 W. Pioneer Pkwy in Arlington, Texas. You won't regret it, these guys and gal are really good.

Jon, Deborah and Vernon are asking for any dancers that are interested in helping out as "Angels", to contact them directly for the dates and times they would like your help.

Jon: 817-469-1179 JonJonesSDC@att.net; Deborah: 817-469-1179 deborahcjones@att.net

Richard and Jan

DANCE LESSONS

We had a great night of lessons. Wayne taught 18 calls and the students, and angles, are doing very well. We have 39 paid students.

This is from our Angel signup sheet (courtesy of Mark & Karen Hawkins):

G. Loxsom, McClures, Hawkins, Rows, Covingtons, M. Foust, Bursons, J. Duncan, Amys, Hamms, Feldmans, D. Maier, Sees, Ramirezs, Pitts and M. Sherman.

That is 27 angels and we were still using Jan as a male dancer. Our needs are great but we have an abundance of student dancers. We just have to keep this up until Christmas. We can do it.

You might find it interesting to know that the following clubs are having square dance lessons this fall: Triangle Squares, Kissin Kuzzin's, Texas Reelers, Rockwall Squares, Lone Star Solos, Stone Steppers, Tri-City Promenaders, The Casuals, T Squares Gadabouts & the Fort Worth Squares and Dublin Cloverleaf Square Dance Club. Circle I and The Pioneers have lessons planned for 2014.

NORTEX SPOT LIGHT

TRCA's CALLERS CAVALCADE

Friday November 1, 2013

(Future NTCA Stars 6:00 PM, Early Rounds 7:00 PM, Grand March 7:45 PM)

\$5.00 donation per person

(family package, children 18 or under get in free with an accompanying adult)

ROUND UP 2013

Celebrating Texas' Heritage

The Yellow Rose of Texas



Featured Caller: Noah Siegmann

Staff Caller: Vernon Jones

Staff Cues: JL Pelton

Saturday November 2, 2013

(All day & evening)

\$15 donation per person

(family package, children 18 or under get in free with an accompany adult)

Grapevine Convention Center

1209 South Main St., Grapevine, TX

(accommodations may be booked through NORTEX, see Hotel Reservation Form on www.nortex.org)

Questions: Please call John & Shirley Currie (214) 557-2411 NORTEX Round-Up Chair or email: round-upnortex.org

Download and print a copy of the 2013 ROUND UP registration from www.nortex.org

Complete the form and mail it to NTCA/NORTEX 2013, 7101 Dobbins Dr, Plano, TX 75025-5740

Make checks payable to NORTEX (no cash please)

Must be postmarked no later than 10/1/2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have two new members, Doug and Jan Bergesen, they have been visiting, dancing as independents for some time. They are really great dancers. If you have not done so, invite them into a square, you will not regret it.

Please add November 8th to your calendar as our New Dancer Dance - more about this to come later.

Keeping Your Swinging Stars With You - Andy Piziali likes to keep a copy of the Swinging Stars roster on his [Palm Pilot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_pilot) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_pilot) so he periodically converts the published roster into a [CSV file](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comma-separated_values) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comma-separated_values) that can be imported into his PDA. If you would like a copy of this file to import into your phone, PDA or other mobile device, **let him know** at (Andrew Piziali <andy@piziali.dv.org>

Subject: Re: Keeping Your Swinging Stars With You) and he will send you a copy.

Check out the GRaM committee web-site: www.lifesjustadance.com click on Lessons and then DFW Area Lessons Map. You will note a Star in Plano labeled "Swinging Stars". If you click this it will bring up our lessons flyer. This is just one of the things that has come out of the GRaM committee to help promote square dancing by advertising the lessons for each club.

NORTEX Grand Prize, the cruise, raffle tickets sales need to be completed before 10/01/2013. Raffle ticket stubs and money need to be turned in on 10/01/2013.

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.

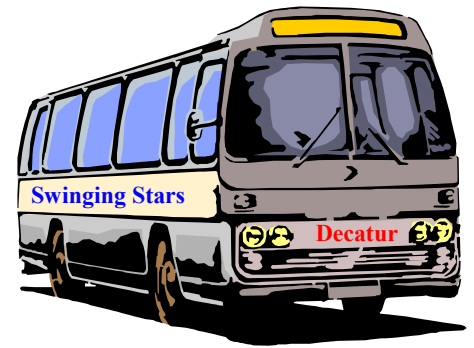
*** * * From Your 2nd VPs * * ***

Two contingents of Swinging Stars sent in reports you can read below from this light week of dancing. We missed dancing with the club – we spent a four day weekend in Houston helping take shift care of Bob's mom, who is in a transitional hospital since Monday. While in Houston, we took a couple breaks and visited the Hey Lollies, who happen to be one of the bigger dance clubs in our nation with (> 260 members), for all plus dancing called by Joey Duhamel, in a beautiful area of Houston. And we could not resist visiting the Tomball Promenaders' Anniversary dance (338 in attendance) featuring a reunion of the Texas Po' Boys (Ringer, Flowers, Kotal, and Jeans) who called the tips and harmonized in concert, and the Prows cued the rounds and did a cool demo before the dance started. We found that square dancing can give a lift when even when you are dealing with tough times.

This next week there are lots of dances worthy of your attention. Not on the club calendar there is: Plus 4's dance on Wednesday night, Yellow Rockers on Thursday night, Texas Reelers on Saturday night, and the Rebel Rousers are having their Round Up prelude dance on Saturday night. See the Promenade or the club websites for details. On the calendar there is also a double deal dance of interest with the Trailblazers. Saturday night go to the dance of your choice.

Is anyone going to DeGray Lake for the Square Round the Lake dance this weekend? If so, let us know and make sure to give us a report if you can, to let others know about this great weekend of dancing.

Swinging Stars Bus Trip – Decatur 8'ers anniversary Oktoberfest dance October 5th. We will leave from the parking lot of the Walmart in Plano at Spring Creek and US75 at 6:00PM sharp for Weatherford College in Bridgeport. The workshop starts at 7:30PM and the dance is from 8:00PM to 10:00PM, after which we will board the bus and return to Plano. A full dinner will be served at the dance. You should plan on fun and games while on the bus and make sure to bring snacks and beverages to enjoy on the return trip. Get your \$20 per person (first come, first served) to Bob or Terri ASAP to secure your seat (mail a check or bring to a dance). We have filled enough of the bus that we will not open the remaining seats to other area clubs.



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 Swinging Stars 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
Triangle Squares	30-Aug-13
Tri City Promenaders	26-Jan-13
T-Square Gadabouts	15-Feb-13
Yellow Rockers	18-Apr-13

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

Double Plus, September 12th

A pair of Swinging Stars couples visited Double Plus at Swingtime Center in Fort Worth on Thursday. This club dances the 2nd Thursday of each month and offers 2.5 hours of great all plus dancing which typically starts with a half hour workshop. During the workshop, guest caller, Bobby Willis, focused on Coordinate with roles flipped for boys / girls, Left Chase (newest Caller Lab official name for this variant), and Crossfire. After the workshop, Bobby kept dancers alert and challenged throughout the rest of the evening. All in attendance had a terrific time. Next month's guest caller is slated to be Darryl Lipscomb. The visiting Swinging Stars were the Bondis and the Sees. Thanks to Jim Bondi for the dance details.

Dance of Interest, Diamond Jubileers, September 14th

The Swinging Stars visited the Diamond Jubileers at Swingtime Center in Fort Worth on Saturday for their annual Red Hat double deal dance. Rounds were cued by Mel Neumann while squares were choreographed by the great caller duo of Paul Kinsey and Rick Smith. Given this dance's tradition, red hats were seen bobbing energetically across the floor all evening. Paul and Rick entertained square dancers with fast paced, often challenging, tips featuring some unusual calls, such as "Heads (or Sides) Zoom (while promenading)." All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Visiting Swinging Stars were Bondis and Sees. Again, thanks to Jim Bondi for sharing these dance details.

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

Dance of Interest – Trailblazers, Saturday, September 21st

Location: Swingtime Center (5100 SE Loop 820, Ft. Worth, TX)
 Website: n/a
 Time: Early rounds – 7:00PM / workshop – 7:30PM
 Caller: Ray Savell
 Cuer: Jack Kinney
 Theme: Celebrate Fall
 Notes: This is a Double Deal dance

Ladies Luncheon, Monday, September 23rd

Location: Casa Cha Cha (3613 Shire Blvd, Suite 180, Richardson, TX)
Website: <http://www.casachacha.com/>
Time: 11:30PM
Hostess: Fran Bivins
Notes: Let Fran know if you plan to attend (email: GBivins1@msn.com ph: 972.495.6925)

Swinging Stars, Friday, September 27th

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: Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff
Notes: Come prepared to taste and judge chilis and desserts prepared by your fellow Swinging Stars

Dance of Interest – Dixie Chainers, Saturday, September 28th

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: n/a
Notes: n/a

Harvest Holidays, Sunday, September 29th

Location: Swingtime Center (5100 SE Loop 820, Ft. Worth, TX)
Website: <http://www.harvestholiday.com/>
Time: Round dance – 2:00PM
Caller: n/a
Cuer: Jack Kinney
Theme: Autumn Fun Rounds
Notes: Phase 2, 3, and 4 rounds

Official – Decatur 8'ers, Saturday, October 5th (BUS TRIP DANCE – see details above)

Location: Weatherford College (5180 US Highway 380, Bridgeport, TX)
Website: <http://www.decatu8ers.com/>
Time: Workshop – 7:30PM / grand march – 8:00PM
Caller: Vernon Jones
Cuer: Jack von der Heide
Theme: Oktoberfest
Notes: This is a Double Deal anniversary dance, full German dinner will be served

* * * SPECIAL WEEKEND DANCE OPPORTUNITIES * * *

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

Log Cabin Swingers Jerry Story weekend, November 8-10th

Location: Promenade Hall (1210 N. Tool Dr., Tool, TX)
Website: <http://swingingstars.org/storytime2013.pdf>
Caller: Jerry Story
Cuer: Walter Brewer

Houston Hoedown, November 8-9th

Location: Lone Star Convention Center (9055 Airport, Conroe, TX)
Website: <http://www.squarethru.com/hoedown.htm>
Callers: Hunter Keller and Houston area callers
Cuer: Randy Preskitt

REFRESHMENTS DUTY AND INFORMATION

September 27	Dennison, Hardin/Smith, Maier
October 11	Gifford, Nejd, 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 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



September 27, 2013

Burnin' Big Tex Chili Cookoff



October 25, 2013

Boot Scootin'

Show Your Colors Ball



Friday, November 1st – Cavalcade at Roundup will run from 6:00 – 10:00 on November 1st

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:

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.

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@swingingsstars.org

Phones: (972) 325-1144