



TWINKLES



Central Texas Stardust Ballroom Dance Club

March 13, 2010

<http://www.centraltexasdance.com/>

Stardust Ballroom
Presents
Corky Robinson
And the Keynoters

Saturday
March 13, 2010

Dancing 8 to 11 p.m.

Cultural Activities Center
Strasburger Hall
3011 North Third St.
Temple, Texas

Dress: After 5

\$15 per person

Registration

Doris and Boot Norwood

Greeters:

Beverly and Richard Sawyer

Decorations

Antonia and Manuel Lopez
Carol Schaeper and Ken Shoaf
Kitchen Area Helpers
Volunteer with Carol Kelley

Corky Robinson Combo
Entertains Stardust

We welcome back Corky Robinson and his talented musicians. Since they last played for us, the Keynoters have played for several local area charity events, including a fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House hosted by The Meridian, and at a recent ball for the Plummer Movement Disorders Center. Welcome Corky and his group to the Stardust Ballroom, and let them know if you have a special request.

Board Discusses
Money Matters

There will be a Board of Directors meeting on Monday, March 8 with the main topic being Stardust's budget for the remainder of the 2009-10 season. To put it bluntly, we will have a tough time making it through September 2010 with our anticipated expenses (hall rent, bands, etc.) and our present number of members and current bank balance. When your income doesn't match your outgo, there are only two things that can be done:

1. Increase your income.
2. Decrease your outgo.

So... the Board is facing some tough decisions, and would like to hear suggestions from members (and also those of you who are regular guests). On the March 8 agenda will be the usual cost-cutting measures (dropping one or more dances, going to recorded music for one or more dances), and income-increasing strategies (membership drive, extra incentives for joining). Help us think outside the box to come up with ways to keep our club in sound financial shape. Many of you are members of other clubs and organizations--what works for those groups?

Here again is the current Stardust Board. Please contact one of them about what you think would help: Lee Talley and Nance Travis-Talley,

George and Betty Fowler, Dennis and Gretchen Williams, Doris and Boot Norwood, Charles and Sue Stewart, Carol Kelley, Richard and Beverly Sawyer, Karen Gonzales. Contact David Domelsmith (domelsmith@earthlink.net or 254-773-8983) if you need phone or e-mail info.

Bolero Lessons Start
March 18

Stefan and Diana Easter of Steppin' Out Studios in Harker Heights will teach bolero, a new offering in the CAC/Stardust dance lesson series. The bolero is a slow, rhythmic, romantic dance, that fits slow rumba music as well as "classic" boleros. Several Stardust dancers are decent (to superb) bolero dancers, so watch for them March 13 if you need a preview. "Ravel's Bolero" and "The Breeze and I" are good examples of bolero-friendly music, and Corky Robinson's group plays both of them. A set of five weekly lessons (Thurs., 6:30-8) costs \$25 per person, and you can sign up at the first lesson on March 18. Contact Ed / Jo Ann Peeler (254-593-3101) for further info.

In related news, the East Coast Swing group is winding up on March 11 with the traditional graduation practice party. Everyone is invited, free, to congratulate these new dancers.

Encouraging Words for Beginning Dancers and Other Newcomers

There has been a surge of interest in Ballroom and other types of social dancing, with television shows like “Dancing With The Stars” leading the way. This has been a mixed blessing. People at Stardust know how much fun dancing is, and that Normal People can learn to dance in fairly short order, with the proper help and encouragement. On the other hand, “Dancing With The Stars” and its spinoffs implies that you have to have to be a highly skilled and flashy dancer before you can come out on the dance floor and have fun. Band members and visitors tell us Stardust has a high proportion of very experienced and skilled dancers, and we could be pretty intimidating to new people, without meaning to.

Stardust is a friendly and welcoming club. If you’re one of those Experienced Dancers, think back to when you were nervous and green, and remember how much nerve it took to actually go out to those first dances. Keep an eye out for people who need encouragement and a friendly word, so they’ll start to enjoy what we already enjoy.

Following are some Encouraging Words your editors wrote a couple of years ago for use with beginning dance lessons. We hope they’ll remind you what beginners are worried about and what they need to know as they move to becoming Dancers.

1. Remember why you’re doing this. Dancing is enjoyable, it’s a fun activity to do with other peo-

ple, it keeps your mind and body active, and dancing is probably hard-wired into our nervous systems. It’s worth the effort. It will be difficult in the beginning, like learning any new skill, but there will come a magical time when the pleasure exceeds the effort, and you’ll realize, “Hey, I’m A Dancer!”

2. Dancers are sociable people.

People who go to ballroom dance events like meeting and talking to people. Most are happy to offer advice, show you how they do steps or patterns, and answer questions (like, “Is that a foxtrot?”). At a Stardust dance you’ll always see people in the corners showing each other how to do steps.

3. It doesn’t take much to get started with ballroom dancing.

We’re serious. If you know 2-3 basic steps in 2-3 different types of dances, you can enjoy yourself at any dance venue in this area. The more you know, the more fun it will be, but don’t let “I don’t know enough” keep you from starting. It’s perfectly okay to plan out with your partner what you want to do during a piece of music, write it down, and carry it out on the floor with you.

4. Knowing a few unwritten rules will keep you out of trouble.

Sometimes dance floors can get crowded, and some dances are quite fast. Just like on the Interstate, people who are doing unpredictable things can cause accidents. So...

a. Remember line-of-dance for progressive dances like Waltz and Foxtrot. If you’re on the floor for one of these, you need to get going and follow line of dance.

b. Know the difference between progressive dances and spot dances, and go with the majority.

Some pieces of music do fit more than one dance (ex., Foxtrot and Swing). If Progressive and Spot dancers are both on the floor, the Spot people should be towards the center, and the Progressives should go around the edges. If you start out Progressing and decide to Spot, or vice versa, go to the right area.

c. Try to clear the floor after each song ends, so dancers will have a clear path when music starts again. If you start talking with someone on the dance floor, and we hope you do, please carry it over to the tables or elsewhere off the floor.

d. If you are not dancing and need to go somewhere while others are dancing, please go around the edge of the dance floor rather than cutting across. Being predictable is a virtue.

e. The musicians who play at ballroom dances do it because they enjoy doing it. None of them is getting rich, and most travel at least an hour to get to Temple. They appreciate applause and personal thank you’s, and most bands like to get requests from the audience.

f. Most clubs and dance halls have rules about alcohol and smoking, and you should check beforehand if you need to. Also, most places have a “dress expectation”. In Central Texas, “semi-formal,” which means coat and tie for men and whatever is comparable for ladies, is about as dressy as it gets. With a coat and tie, you’ll fit in anywhere.

