



# **Swing Times**

*Spring/Summer '98*

## **A message in a bottle: The SVSDS needs your help**

A few years ago, there was a call for help.

In the Southwest Virginia Swing Dance Society (SVSDS) Newsletter, Lisa and Charlie, the founders of the SVSDS, announced that they were leaving town. They asked for help from people with time, energy, and an interest in dancing to take over the running of the Society.

Lisa and Charlie got the response needed to keep the Swing Dance Society alive and help it grow stronger through the years.

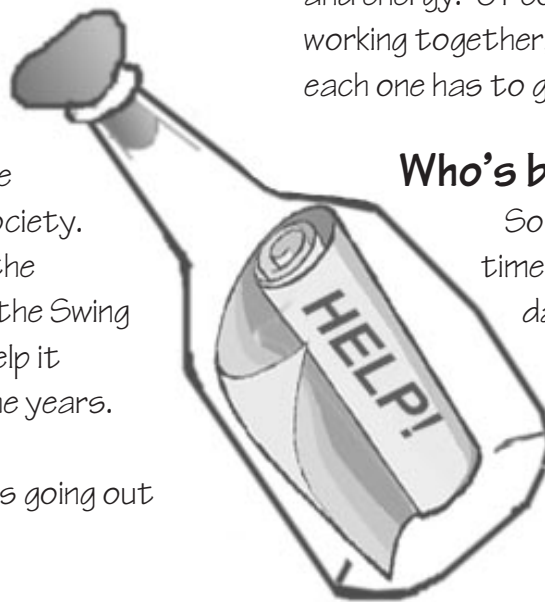
Now the call for help is going out again.

### **Our situation**

The Swing Dance Society is run by a group of volunteers called the Steering Committee. They meet every so often to decide the dates, locations, bands, and dance teachers for each of the dances hosted by the Society. They also make sure that there will be refreshments at all the large dances, and that the dance areas are pleasant (they have chairs where needed, the walls are festive, etc.). Just about the only

thing that all the members of the Steering Committee have in common is a love of dance and the desire to keep the Swing Dance Society alive.

All it takes to keep the ball rolling is time and energy. Of course, the more people working together, the less time and energy each one has to give.



### **Who's been working**

So who has been giving their time and energy to keep us dancing?

Since Lisa and Charlie left, the Steering Committee has changed some, but most recently the following people have been carrying the load:

#### **Preston Guynn**

Preston has been our Swing Dance Society Co-Coordinator for the past year. He was the one who made sure that all the jobs got done in preparation for the dances to live music and for some of the recorded-music dances as well. He also made sure that everyone had the support needed from other members to get the necessary things

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done. Preston has done a great job over the past year and we owe him a big THANKS! for his time and effort.

### **Mike Hedleski**

Mike is our other Co-Coordinator. Mike is generally responsible for the dances to recorded music. Mike's energy and enthusiasm have kept many of us going.

### **Lynn Thorpe**

Lynn has been both our treasurer and our "Booking Meister" for teachers, bands, and dance floors. She has done a great job at both positions.

### **Gretchen Mourer**

Gretchen is the president of our Student Chapter. Without Gretchen's help we would not have been able to use the Old Dominion Ballroom in Squires Hall or the dining room in Hillcrest.

### **Dan Richter**

Dan is the web-master for our home page ([www.bev.net/community/swingdance/](http://www.bev.net/community/swingdance/)). He tries to keep us in the twentieth century.

### **Debbi Sheldon**

Debbi is responsible for the production of all the fliers advertising the swing dances and for the newsletter (previously done by Catherine Bond). She also decorates for the dances held in the Community Center. Don't you think that place looks better with a few balloons up?

### **Other Members**

As well as these folks, there are several people who help clean up, buy refreshments, distribute fliers, host dances, sit at the door at dances (no dancer likes *that* job), and just help out all around. Thanks to all the other members of the Steering Commit-

tee who fill these needs and any others that arise:

**Catherine Bond,  
Rob Fentress,  
Judy Hood,  
Beth Lancaster,  
Warren Pierce,  
Steve Shaffer,  
Nancy Shealor, and  
Kerry Waite.**

## **What we Need Now**

There are a few specific positions in need of a volunteer:

**Coordinator:** The members of the Steering Committee need someone to organize the big picture.

**Treasurer:** Lynn wants to hand over this part of her duties.

**Secretary:** The Secretary would take minutes at meetings and e-mail them to other members. He or she would also maintain the membership list.

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The Southwest Virginia Swing Dance Society promotes swing dancing in the area by sponsoring live-band dances and dances to recorded music, and by offering instruction in several swing dance styles. Our events are open to all ages, to couples and singles, and all experience levels. Children are welcome with supervision. You do not need a partner to attend any class, dance or workshop. All live-band dances include refreshments, and are preceded by a one-hour beginning swing class. Membership is \$10/year for general public and \$5/semester for students. Membership is not required to attend dances. All SWVA Swing Dance Society events are alcohol- and smoke-free.

To receive our newsletters, or for more information, contact Mike Hedlesky (552-8949) or sign up for the list-serv (directions next page).

This newsletter is produced by ImageSmith Desktop Publishing (552-0292).

## ***For your Info***

### **The List-Serve**

To receive e-mail about swing activities, send e-mail to [listserv@listserv.vt.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.vt.edu). In the body of the message, type:

**subscribe swing\_dance <your full name>**

To unsubscribe, type

**UNSUBscribe swing\_dance**

OR contact Catherine ([clbond@vt.edu](mailto:clbond@vt.edu)).

### **The WEB PAGE**

Check out SWYSDS's WWW homepage:  
**<http://www.bev.net/community/swingdance/>**

Related Links:

JUMP SITE: <http://NCLS.com>  
has every swing dance resource on the web.  
RUGSDC: <http://www.cs.runet.edu/~rfentres/RGSDC.html>

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**Host for Dances:** Different members of the Steering Committee volunteer to host each dance. Hosts have a check list of things which have to be taken care of for the dance to go smoothly: they're like the Coordinator for one dance.

**Members/officers for the Student Chapter.**

All of these are vital positions. If you think that you might be able to help, even if you don't fit any of the categories above, please let one of the people listed earlier know. Or, come to our next meeting on April 16 at 8 pm in Hillcrest Hall.

## ***Calendar***

There are only a few dances left this season: four to recorded music and one to live music. Watch the list-serve for announcements about dances over the summer.

### **Dates:**

The four dances to recorded music are from 7:30 to 10:00 pm at Hillcrest Hall (on the VT campus) on

**April 17, April 24,**

**May 8, & May 29.**

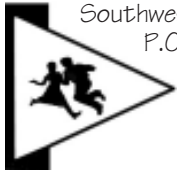
Admission for these dances is \$2 members/ \$3 non-members. Bring any music you would like to try swinging to.

Our last live music dance for this season is on **Friday, May 22, 8 - 11 PM**, at the Blacksburg Community Center. The beginning swing class will be 7-8. Admission: \$8 general public, \$5 students/members, \$4 student members.

### **Directions:**

Blacksburg Community Center: 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg. Go north on Main until you see Lube Time & 7/11 store on right, then turn right on Patrick Henry. Center is 1.5 blocks on the right.

Hillcrest: Driving North on Main Street, turn left onto Washington Street and enter the Virginia Tech campus, traveling West. Pass West Campus Drive, then take the next available right into a large parking lot. Drive through the parking lot. Turn right at the sign that says "Wallace Hall." Drive up the short street to the intersection, and go straight through the intersection into a small parking lot. Hillcrest is the large building directly in front and right of you.



Southwest Virginia Swing Dance Society  
P.O. Box 566  
Blacksburg VA 24063

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## ***Additional Opportunities for Dancing in and around Blacksburg:***

### **Charlottesville Swing Dance Society**

Contact person: Kathy Stacy (804)  
296-2268. Dance hotline phone number:  
(804) 980-2744. Web address:  
<http://avenue.org/swing>.

### **Mt. Empire USABDA**

Spring Dance Schedule: Wytheville Com-  
munity Center, 250 S 4th St., Whythville:  
April 18, May 16. Contact Person: Nellie  
Hicks, (540)783-5349

### **Virginia Tech's Open YMCA**

The YMCA offers classes in ballroom  
and swing dancing during the fall and winter.  
Contact the Open YMCA at 231-4208.

### **RUGSDC**

The Radford University Group & Social  
Dance Club sponsors lessons in several  
varieties of Swing Dancing. A partner is  
preferred but definitely not required. If  
you'd like to learn what events the club will be  
sponsoring, check out their web page, or e-  
mail Rob Fentress at [rfentres@runet.edu](mailto:rfentres@runet.edu).  
Or call (540) 265-1825 or 552-1753 for  
information.

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