

Kick Up Your Heels

Western Swing music is for dancing...or, at least, serious toe-tappin'. Here are festivals and venues to experience Western Swing. You also can track who's doing what when via the ***Western Swing Monthly*** (11901 Swearingen Dr. #92, Austin 78758).

Festivals

(all dates are 2004)

Mar. 20--the 7th annual **Texas Western Swing Fiddling Showcase**, Bell Co. Expo, Belton (254/939-8390; www.texaswesternswing.com).

Apr. 22-24--the 32nd annual **Bob Wills Day**, Bob Wills Center, 6th & Lyles Sts., Turkey (806/423-1253).

May 21-22--the annual **Texas Natural and Western Swing Festival**, downtown San Marcos (512/393-8430).

June 3-5--the 17th annual **Legends of Western Swing Music Festival**, Multi-Purpose Events Center, 1000 5th St., Wichita Falls (940/ 716-5500; www.legendsofwesternswing.com).

June 8-12--the XXth annual **West Texas Western Swing Music Festival**, Scurry County Coliseum, E. US 180, Snyder (325/573-3558).

July 24--the 24th annual **Legends of Western Swing Show and Dance**, Grimes County Fairgrounds, FM 3455, Navasota (877/946-4733).

Oct. 22-24--the annual **Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering and Western Swing Festival**, Historic Stockyards, Fort Worth (817/444-5502; www.theredsteagallcowboygathering.com).

Dec. 3--the 3rd annual **Cowboy Christmas Ball**, Old Settler's Headquarters, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock (512/244-7445).

Dec. 18--the 4th annual **Cowboy Christmas Ball**, Crowell Activity Center, 112 S. Main, Crowell (940/684-1670).

Venues

Naturally Yours Dance Platform and Gallery, downtown Lipscomb on TX 305 (806/862-2900).

Broke Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512-442-6189; www.brokenspokeaustintx.com).

Other clubs sometimes featuring Western Swing include:

Stagecoach Ballroom, Fort Worth (817/831-2261; www.stagecoachballroom.com); **Pearl's Dance Hall & Saloon**, Fort Worth (817-624-2800); **Sons of Hermann Hall** in Dallas (214/747-4422) and Houston (XXXX) www.sonsofhermann.com).

Stampede Club, Big Spring (when Jody Nix is in town; call first)....

Cotton Club, Granger

Cabaret Club, Bandera

Silver Spur--Gainesville ??

Saenger Hall ??

Gruene Hall, Gruene ??

Blanco's, Houston ??

Continental Club, Austin and Houston ??

Alpine?

Panhandle?

Stardust,

6300 Andrews Highway, 432/362-2575

Several Western Swing veterans offer classes on Western Swing fiddling:

Johnny Gimble's Swing Week 2004....check location? CALL AFTER JAN. 1

re: Western Swing classes; (806) 894-4874; (806) 894-9611 ext. 2341

South Plains College; July 20-25??-- 1401 So. College Ave., Levelland

(www.campbluegrass.com).

Randy Elmore Fiddle Camp, July 5-11, 2004

Cisco Jr. College, 101 College Heights, Cisco (www.randyelmore.com).

Lanny Fiel

May, -XX--the 6th annual Swing Fest 2004, sponsored by the Cowtown Society

of Western Music, features music and the annual "Heroes of Western Music"

induction ceremonies, held at River Ranch, 500 NE 23rd St., Historic

Stockyards, Fort Worth (817-625-7987;

www.cowtownsocietyofwesternmusic.com). ???

MAY--CALL JODY NIX AFTER JAN.1 RE: STAMPEDE EVENT....

July --the 3rd annual Shamrock, Texas Western Swing Festival,

Shamrock Community Center; 972/843-8288...may move to OK

??? Cowtown Society of Western Music Museum (Alps Building). Hours are

M-F 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Free admission. 222 W. Exchange Ave.; Fort Worth,

(817) 558-7580