

Tucson Swing Dance Club Newsletter



The Official Publication of the Tucson Swing Dance Club: Established 1977 by Rose Marie Burrell

President's Message

Hello everyone.

How did you like dancing to the live music of Blues Cubed? I thought we had a great anniversary party. If you like things like the pot luck and live band let us know. We are always looking for ways for everyone to have fun at the Club, so suggestions are always welcome.

Speaking of parties we have another party for **Halloween on October 26th**. The theme is a costume party, naturally, so wear your Halloween best.

We have been sporadic in our testing procedure for Jack & Jills. We are trying to be more consistent by announcing a test day several weeks in advance and having sign up sheets. We will offer 2 or 3 days in the next few months to try and give everyone who wishes a chance to test. As the year progresses we will then offer testing as needed.

The fall season is a good time for dance conventions in Southern California. Nothing improves your dancing like a full weekend devoted to West Coast Swing.

The Phoenix Club is also starting their competition season if you want more competitions close by. They have larger contests with more experienced dancers as well.

We have great contests, our advanced dancers are always fun to watch. The Phoenix club just has a little 'more' to it then our contest. Their club night is Sunday night.

Remember, the easiest way to improve in your dancing is to develop some regular dance partners and go out, or go to lessons or just get together and practice.

We also have some great instructors coming into town over the next two months. And if you go to a lesson on Thursday night and think "wow what a great lesson", most of our club instructors teach private lessons as well as group lessons at other locations. That type of information is in the Newsletter as well as out front by the main door.

I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather and taking your dancing to the next level.

Until next month, I will see you out dancing. Bill Garrity.



Photos by
Shadow!
Nightwing

Volume 29 Issue 10

October
2006



President
Bill Garrity

Inside this issue:

Jack and Jill Photos	2
Anniversary Photos	3
Instructor of Month Bulletin Board	4
John Festa Article	5
Calendar	6
Club Board Birthdays Advertisement Info	7

September Jack and Jill Photos



Novice

1st Place:
Todd Crawford and
Christine Daum

2nd Place:
Todd Crawford and
Kari Rasmussen

3rd Place:
Dan Sweeny and
Giuliana Donnelly

Intermediate

Not enough participation



Advanced

1st Place:
James Hood and
April Amstutz

2nd Place:
Harvey Dong and
Ellen Colonna Grotegoed

3rd Place:
Hondo Velasco and
Wendy Miller

TSDC 29th Anniversary—Biker Theme—Blues Cubed

Party Photos



Photos by Shadow! Nightwing

Thursday OCTOBER 26th
TSDC

Halloween Costume Party

Get into some character!!!

**Lessons as usual
7pm Beginning
8pm Intermediate**

**Volunteer
Instructor for the Month
of
OCTOBER**

Lisa Brink

Thanks to everyone
who helped
AND
brought food
AND
came in party character
to the Anniversary Party.

It was a great PARTY!

See the website for additional information
at www.tsd.net

See the Newsletter online in color

Send newsletter input to
tsdcnewsletter@gmail.com

The BY LAWS and TSDC Club Rules
and Jack n Jill Contest Rules
are available at the sign in desk

**New Members Membership Special
Beginning in October**

New Members can join the club at a discount
for the remainder of this year
and the entire calendar year of 2007
For only \$30.00

**December 2nd
TSDC
Christmas Party**
Mark your calendar

**Happy Hour FREE from 7pm to 9pm
3rd Saturday each month
At The Maverick**

Contact Cathy Schreiber for information 272-3355
Or call the TSDC hotline 520 745-0255

Wanted

**DJs to play music
on Thursday nights
at our TSDC**

**If you are interested
contact L Perez**

This article was provided by Jim Buchanan with permission from the Author

John Festa is a nationally prominent champion dancer and DJ from New York City. You might remember John for his wonderful music played in Phoenix July 4th, 2006. For an interesting view of John and the West Coast Swing World go to his new web site www.swingislove.com.

West Coast Swing is Dead
There is no such thing as West Coast Swing
By
JOHN FESTA, www.swingislove.com

The omnipresent debate over whether the music we dance to swings or not continues ad infinitum. We no longer dance exclusively to blues and rhythm & blues with a syncopated back beat. We now dance to pop, hip hop, ballads, latin, smooth jazz, not-so-smooth jazz, rock & roll, top 40, alternative, new wave, urban r & b and on and on. The only musical characteristic required is 4/4 time. We will dance to the sound of windshield wipers. The pros and cons have been enumerated endlessly: The dance has evolved. We are not swinging. A modern sound will bring the young people in, etc. We sold our soul years ago. Where are the young people?

But this essay is not about the modern musical diversity in WCS. This essay is about the physicality of today's dance. What is its essence? One would be hard pressed to name the one quality that 'determines its character'. Ask five WCS teachers to define our dance and you will get five different answers. In my mind, the one quality that makes swing swing is the center to center connection and elasticity of tension and release between two moving bodies. That a leader can anchor and a follower sit into that anchor while both expressing rhythm, only to release all that stored energy, is one of the most glorious of all kinetic actions. I portend this is lost. As I travel around the country and dance with many different people I became more and more aware of this. There are 2 or more generations of dancers that have never experienced this. Few teachers teach this. It is the highest order to do so. It is one of the most difficult feelings to teach. It is intangible. Like trying to teach riding a bicycle. Words are useless until you feel it. Then all the words make perfect sense. It is much easier to teach 'put your right foot here on 2, hand here on 3'. And there are teachers who have never experienced this feeling/movement themselves. But I say this is the essence of swing. And I say this is gone from our dance. West Coast Swing today has no essence, no single characteristic that defines it and delineates it from what is not WCS.

Perhaps today's WCS lives in competition, but that's another essay.

It is a distinct possibility that the divergent music has led to this end. We used to dance to faster syncopated tempi. At these tempi, an astute connection between partners was essential. The dance would not work without it. The laws of physics are perfect. Dancing to 80 beats per week does not require this connection. When we west coast swing dancers years back began dancing to 'other than' music, we brought with us that connection that was engrained. It was in our bodies. We were swinging to non-swing music. Even at slow tempi. Because that's how we danced. Now, a few generations later, where students are taught by teachers, themselves from one generation prior, who learned to dance to slow or 'groove' music, how will anyone learn this swing connection? It is not essential at these tempi or to these sounds. Physics does not require it. Our dance has become amorphous.

My recent experiences lead me to believe that many dancers feel this loss. I am one of them. Projection, perhaps. But as I play music around the country, I hear plenty to support this theory. I in no way mean to point fingers or position blame. It is just time to call a spade a spade. I enjoyed and even helped pioneer the diversity of sounds years back and loved dancing to slower groovy and basically 'other than' music. But I feel our dance has, as an art form, explored different options, traveled down a few roads and the original plan was the best. That which can deliver the essence of swing. Perhaps simply everything old is new again and this is the freshest sound. I do not foresee us dancing to the tempi of the mid 90's during the white hot phase of WCS. But I think a more traditional sound will again garner respect and be added to today's mix of music. I, for one, couldn't be happier. I signed on for swing dancing. For it is the most glorious in feeling, in sound, in purity and love.

October 2006

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4	5 Jack and Jill Contest Instructor Lisa Brink <i>DJ</i> <i>LP</i>	6	7
8	9	10 Board Meeting	11	12 Instructor Lisa Brink <i>DJ</i> <i>Tamra</i>	13	14
15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18	19 Instructor Lisa Brink <i>DJ</i> <i>Ron</i>	20	21 Happy Hour at The Maverick 7-9pm
22	23	24	25	26 Halloween Costume Party Instructor Lisa Brink <i>DJ Joe</i>	27	28
29	30	31				

Thursday dances: 6245 E. Bellevue Street 520 745-0255 www.tsdclub.net

Beginning lesson 7-7:45pm Intermediate lesson 8-8:30pm Dancing until 10:30pm

October Birthdays

Mark Gibson
10/2

James Sebastian
10/4

Christine Daum
10/5

Don Adamavich
10/10

Linda Piper
10/10

Robert Varela
10/15

Dona DeClusin
10/16

Bill Wiebolt
10/19

Barbara Bartell
10/19

Shadow!
Nightwing
10/21

Gail Vamadeva
10/26

Lori Elliott
10/29

John Johnson
10/29

Support TSDC by advertising in the newsletter. Send camera-ready ads and checks payable to the Tucson Swing Dance Club to: TSDC, P.O. Box 32226, Tucson, Arizona 85751-2226, or email a Postscript file of your ad to tsdcnewsletter@gmail.com and drop your check in the mail.

Must be received by the 15th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

Issues	1	2	4	6
Business card	\$7	\$13.50	\$25	\$35
Quarter page	\$14	\$27	\$50	\$68.50
Third page	\$19.50	\$37.50	\$65	\$95
Half page	\$25	\$45	\$70	\$100
Full page	\$40	-	-	-
Single-sided insert	\$50	-	-	-
Double-sided insert	\$80	-	-	-

TSDC 2005-2006 Board

Elected positions:

President Bill Garrity

Vice President Wayne Scheibe

Treasurer Don Bennett

Membership Vicki France

Corporate Secretary Kari Rasmussen

Appointed directors:

Music Director L Perez

Sergeant-at-arms Jim Buchanan

Hospitality/Publicity Director Marta Buchanan

Public Relations Steve Slocum

Dance Director Lisa Brink

Appointed coordinator:

Contest Coordinator Terry Waters

Newsletter Editor Jane Morgan

The TSDC Board of Directors Board Meeting

At 5049 E Fairmount

Tuesday Oct 10th 7:00pm

Greater Phoenix Swing Dance Club

Dances are held every Sunday night

At the VFW Post 720

4853 E. Thomas Road , Phoenix

Lessons—5:00 to 7:00 PM

Open Dancing - 7:00 to 10:00PM

For more information call the hotline

(602) 269—5657

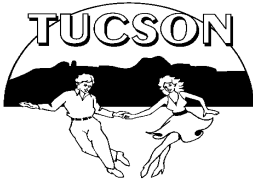
or visit the website

www.gpsdc.com

Get in FREE during the week of your Birthday

New Members

Giuliana Donnelly
Shelly Sackett
Donald Sweeney
Laurie Krupski



P.O. Box 32226
Tucson, AZ 85751-2226

We're on the WEB!
WWW.TSDC.NET

Swing Dance Club

Tucson Swing Dance Club

The only place to be on Thursday

Free pass

This pass entitles _____
to a free beginner's lesson at the Tucson Swing Dance Club, compliments of

who is a club member. **Good for the first visit only.**

Tucson Swing Dance Club - 6245 E. Bellevue - 520 745-0255 www.tsdc.net

Beginning Lesson at 7pm
Intermediate Lesson at 8pm
Open dance till 10:30pm

Member entry donation \$3.00
Guest and non members \$5.00

Annual membership \$25.00

Hot Line phone #520 745 0255

Dance Lessons At the Club

Each month the club dance instructors teach the beginning patterns in West Coast Swing. Students may start the lesson sequence on any Thursday.

First Thursday of the month: Left side pass, underarm turn, underarm turn with a hand change, and the right side pass.

Second Thursday: 4-beat starter step, throwout, closed basic.

Third Thursday: Sugar push, tuck throwout, turning basic.

Fourth Thursday: Basic whip, whip with an inside turn, whip with an outside turn.

Fifth Thursday: Basket whip and variations.

We recommend taking the basic class for three months before going on to the intermediate class. Intermediate classes teach pattern variations, combinations, and syncopations beyond the basics.