

# The Tucson Swing Dance Club's August 2008

# Newsletter

## This month

L Perez and Brooke Schilling are August's volunteer dance instructors.

- Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>: L Perez is the DJ. **Pete Green** is teaching the intermediate lesson at 8pm.
- Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>: Board meeting 7pm at Something Sweet, 5319 E Speedway Blvd.
- Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>: **Jack & Jill Finals!** Bob Brown is the DJ.
- Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>: Happy Hour at the Maverick, 6622 E Tanque Verde Rd, from 7-9pm.
- Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>: Welcome new DJ Jim Davis.
- Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>: Jack & Jill evaluations for the new season. Welcome new DJ Matt Rounseville.

## Upcoming events

- Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>: First Jack & Jill of the new competition season.
- Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>: TSDC Anniversary Party.
- Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>: TSDC Christmas Party at the Tucson Convention Center.



*The 2008 Phoenix 4th of July convention*

## Inside

President's message.....	2
Jack & Jill Finals.....	2
Jack & Jill Evaluations .....	3
August instructor's bios .....	3
First time at Phoenix .....	4
On the road.....	6
August's video link.....	6
TSDC 2008-2009 Board.....	6
Dance lessons at the club.....	6
About the TSDC.....	7
Ad rates.....	7

## President's message

I was really proud of the terrific turnout we had from Tucson at the Phoenix 4th of July convention last month! Throughout the weekend, club members could be found taking workshops, relaxing by the pool, competing in the Jack & Jill, and I heard some were out on the dance floor until the wee hours of the morning.



It was especially great to see some of our members experience a convention for the very first time. The only way to truly know what a convention is like is to go to one, but for those of you who weren't able to make it this time around, you'll find pictures and articles about the event contributed by club members in this newsletter.

September will provide another great opportunity to go to a nearby convention. Mike Gadberry, a member of our sister club, the GPSDC, is hosting Desert City Swing, September 5-7 in Phoenix. It is a smaller convention than 4th of July which gives it the advantage of a more intimate environment as well as low pressure competitions. You'll also be able to participate in other types of competitions in addition to Jack & Jill such as Strictly Swing and Pro-Am. Plus, all workshops are included with your event pass. Go to [desertcityswing.com](http://desertcityswing.com) for ticket and hotel information.

It's August and that means it's time for our Jack & Jill Finals. Good luck to all of our competitors! Finals time means a new Jack & Jill season is just around the corner, and I encourage all members to consider competing. To compete, you must be a member in good standing and have gone through placement testing. Placement testing

takes place at the club on the last Thursday of every month, starting August 28. Sign-up just after the intermediate class that night.

Have a great month and I'll see you on the dance floor.

*James Hood*

## Jack & Jill Finals

Our big Jack & Jill Finals are August 14th, 2008. Congratulations to everyone who qualified. I would like to outline the meetings and sign-up deadlines contestants must adhere to. I would like to give a big thanks to our head judge Jeannie Tucker. We are very fortunate to have her help with the most crucial part of any contest. So we start with a judges meeting at 8:15 PM. **The contestant sign-up deadline is 8:30 PM.** This will be followed by a **mandatory contestants meeting at 8:40 PM.** Contestant's must make the sign-up and the meeting to be able to dance. The contest will start at 9:00 PM.

These are the J & J finals so you want to dress to impress; wear your best contest clothes. There is a suggested color scheme of black and white but this is not mandatory. Best of luck to everyone.

One final item concerning J & J's is the first contest of the new season will be September 11<sup>th</sup>, not the 4<sup>th</sup>. We usually have our monthly contests on the first Thursday of the month. But this year we did not want to conflict with the Desert City Swing convention in Phoenix on the first weekend of the month. So I will see you all at finals if I don't see you sooner out dancing.

*Bill Garrity*

Contest Coordinator

## Jack & Jill Evaluations

The new season of Jack and Jill contests will begin soon! September 11th, to be exact. If you are interested in competing and have not yet been evaluated into a division, our first evaluation will be held August 28th. If you can't make it on that date, or want a little more time to practice, evaluations will be conducted on the last Thursday of every month. You must sign in by 8:40 p.m. in order to be evaluated that night.

For those of you who are new to the competition scene, evaluations are TSDC's method of placing competitors in the correct division for their level of dance; novice, intermediate, or advanced. During the evaluation process, the prospective competitor will dance with two to three evaluators and be ranked by a total of five evaluators and placed into a division. If you have any questions about this process or would like more information, feel free to e-mail me at [swngdanc@aol.com](mailto:swngdanc@aol.com), or you can catch me at the Club.

*Ellen Colonna*  
Judge Coordinator



## L Perez and Brooke

L Perez was born in NYC and raised in the NY metropolitan area. At age 5 his grandmother taught him his first Swing and Salsa steps thereby giving him the chronic case of dance-itis he has today. In 1993 LP began his career as a full-time professional instructor in Tucson. LP has won many Advanced level, national Jack & Jill contests and placed at the Invitational/Champion level in 2005. For the past 5 years LP has been the head judge of the Some Like It Hot Salsa event held every Labor Day in Tucson. He has coached dozens of Tucson dancers since opening DANZON! School of dance, the 500 square foot studio attached to his home in northwest Tucson where he coaches and choreographs over 20 different partner dances in all styles (Ballroom, Swing, Latin & Country) from beginner to professional levels at about half the rates of the "big" studios.



Brooke Schilling was born in Ohio and has been dancing WCS for nearly a decade. While working in Boston, she studied WCS with Maxwell Ho. She currently competes at the Intermediate level at the TSDC even though many advanced leaders tell her she should be in Advanced level. In June of 2006 LP asked Brooke to partner with him for the Strictly Swing contest at the TSDC. She accepted, though they could not possibly know then what they would soon discover... that as spectacularly as they dance together, they have way more chemistry than their dancing indicates! Brooke and LP now look forward to a long life of love and teaching their future children to dance.

Brooke and LP teach two WCS classes (beginner and intermediate) every Saturday at the Maverick starting at 5:30 and starting on Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> they will be teaching beginner Salsa and Hustle group lessons at Miguel's restaurant on Oracle Road.

You can reach LP & Brooke at 792-2067 or [LPerez.Dancer@yahoo.com](mailto:LPerez.Dancer@yahoo.com) or view LP's website at [http://www.myspace.com/l\\_perez](http://www.myspace.com/l_perez)

## First time at Phoenix

In a word, I was intimidated. I had only decided to go to the convention about three weeks before hand, then I sorted out



my accomodations with just one week to go.

In fact, I had neglected to look at the schedule of events at all before I arrived.

Once there, the group of friends I went with (one of the best choices I made was to drive up and share a room with friends) kept pointing out people whose names I apparently ought to have known. The initial terror subsided once I got settled into my room and had a chance to look over the program. From then on my weekend was a combination of dancing, sleeping, eating, swimming, making friends (and getting to know some better), and more dancing. I remained somewhat bashful in the presence of so many good dancers (and quite a few great ones too!). But if the numerous comments about my improvement just over those three days were any indication, it was a completely worth while trip. I will not hesitate to attend next year, and this time to compete!

*Martha McLeod*



## First time at Phoenix

As a new dancer, the Phoenix 4th Of July Convention was the first swing convention I've ever attended, but it certainly won't be the last!



It was a great experience, a wonderful weekend full of dancing, and a chance to meet some amazing, awesome people. My experience on the dance floor during the social dances was very enjoyable, and a wonderful learning experience. I had the opportunity to dance with dancers at all levels, which enabled me to get plenty of practice, solidify certain aspects of my technique and patterns, and at the same time find other areas I need to work on. I attended one workshop by Parker Dearborn and Jessica Cox. They taught a pattern on starter steps which I found very helpful. I really enjoyed watching the jack-and-jills; it was interesting to see the competitions develop from novice, where beginner dancers are taking their first judged steps, up to the Champion of Champions level. These phenomenal dancers have inspired me to work harder, to practice more, to pursue more private lessons, and to continue the development of my technique. I'm especially proud of the fact that many of our own Tucson dancers, people that I dance with or next-to, competed out on the dance floor at various levels. I heard so many good comments about the Tucson dancers coming from people who traveled in from all over the country. Overall, this was a very enjoyable event, and I'm looking forward to future conventions.

*John Calvo*





## **TSDC 2008-2009 Board**

James Hood is the President, Heather McLean is the Vice President, Don Bennett is the Treasurer, Robin Chlad is the Membership Secretary, and Cathy Schreiber is the Corporate Secretary.

Kevin Burke is the Sergeant at arms, Ellen Colonna is the Head Judge, Jim Davis is the Newsletter Editor, Bill Garrity is the Jack & Jill Coordinator, Tom Grubaugh is the Dance Director, Tamra Hood is the Music Director, Chris McLean is the Club Photographer, Heather McLean is the Website Administrator, and Eleanor Schrandt is the Hospitality Director.

## **On the road**

At the Phoenix 4<sup>th</sup> of July convention, James Hood placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Advanced Jack & Jill.



## **August's video link**

Check the website at [www.tsd.net](http://www.tsd.net) for a link to Benji Schwimmer and Patty Vo at last year's Desert City Swing convention.

## **Dance lessons at the club**

Each month the club's dance instructors teach the beginning patterns in West Coast Swing. Students may start the 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: Sugarpush, tuck throwout, turning basic.
- Fourth Thursday: Basic whip, whip with an inside turn, whip with an outside turn.
- And in months with a fifth Thursday: Basket whip and variations.

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

## About the TSDC

Founded in 1977 by Rose Marie Burrell, the Tucson Swing Dance Club has dances Thursday night at the Tucson Woman's Club, 6245 E Bellevue Street. There are dances every Thursday night except on Thanksgiving or other major holidays.

Club instructors teach a beginning lesson from 7-7:45pm and an intermediate lesson from 8-8:30pm, with dancing until 10:30pm.

Admission is \$3 for members and \$5 otherwise; annual memberships cost \$25 and run from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Members are also eligible to compete in the club Jack & Jill contests and can choose to get a printed copy of the newsletter. Anyone can read the newsletter online at [www.tsd.net](http://www.tsd.net)

Questions? Call our hotline at 520 745-0255.

We play your music at

## Dance Party Tucson

Lessons: Beginner 6:30pm.

Intermediate/Advanced 7:15pm. Open Dance - 8pm. Cost: \$15 for the evening. **\$2 discount on admission for TSDC members.** 5000 square foot wooden dance floor!

Boys and Girls Clubs - 3155 E Grant (east of Country Country Club). Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month.

[www.dancepartytucson.com](http://www.dancepartytucson.com)



Miro's dance studio

## Ad rates

Email ads to [tsdcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tsdcnewsletter@gmail.com) and send a check payable to the Tucson Swing Dance Club to TSDC, P.O. Box 32226, Tucson, AZ 85751

Issues	1	2	4	6
Business card	\$7	\$13.50	\$25	\$35
Quarter page	\$14	\$27	\$50	\$68.60
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			

