

# The Tucson Swing Dance Club's September 2008

# Newsletter

## This month

Ellen Colonna and Hondo Velasco are September's volunteer dance instructors.

- Thursday, September 4th: Jim Davis is the DJ. Due to the Desert City Swing convention, the Jack & Jill will be on the second Thursday of the month instead of on this night.
- Tuesday, September 9th: Board meeting 7pm at Something Sweet, 5319 E Speedway Blvd.
- Thursday, September 11th: **First Jack & Jill** of the new competition season. L Perez is the DJ.
- Thursday, September 18th: **TSDC Anniversary Party** with live music by the Bad News Blues band.
- Saturday, September 20th: Happy Hour at the Maverick, 6622 E Tanque Verde Rd, from 7-9pm.
- Thursday, September 25th: **NO DANCE!** The floor at the Woman's Club is being refinished, so we will not have a dance that night. The next Jack & Jill qualifying night will be October 30th.



*The 2008 Jack & Jill Finals*

## Upcoming events

- Saturday, December 13th: TSDC Christmas Party at the Tucson Convention Center.

## Inside

President's message.....	2
Jack & Jill Finals.....	3
Finals music.....	3
On the road.....	4
New members .....	4
Birthdays .....	4
September's video link .....	4
About the TSDC .....	5
Local WCS instructors .....	5
Ad rates .....	5
What judges look for .....	6
TSDC 2008-2009 Board .....	7
Dance lessons at the club .....	7

## President's message

Well, it's September, which means it's time for our club anniversary party! It will be a pot luck at the club on September 18. Bring a dish to get in free and enjoy the music of the Bad News Blues band. The theme is "Elvis Lives," so pull out your 50's clothing and come ready to have a good time.

I hope you made it to the club August 7 for the intermediate class with special guest instructor Pete Green. We had a wonderful turnout at the club and hope to have Pete back in the future. It is a great treat to have a nationally recognized WCS dancer right here in town. I hope you took advantage of it by booking a private lesson and attending his workshop.

One of my main goals as president is to increase club members' awareness of the national dance scene. If you've been to our website recently, you'll see we've added a video link of the month so you can watch some of the country's best WCS dancers right from our homepage. And if you think those videos are impressive, you will be blown away if you attend a WCS convention and see them dance in person.

The next major dance event happens to be right here in Arizona. As we announced last month, Desert City Swing is being held Sept 5-7 in Phoenix. Besides 4th of July, it is the only major WCS convention held in Arizona, so you don't want to miss it. If you don't already have your tickets and hotel room booked, it may not be too late. Purchase your tickets online at [www.desertcityswing.com](http://www.desertcityswing.com) or pick up a flyer from the front desk.

If you're absolutely not able to make Desert City Swing (or you've caught the dance convention bug), another great event is coming up in October. John Wheaton is hosting Halloween Swingthing Oct 30-Nov 2 in Irvine California. Check out the flyers at the front desk of the club or visit their website for more details:  
[www.centralcoastswingdance.com](http://www.centralcoastswingdance.com).

*James*

*Welcome April Lynn Hood, born at home on Thursday, August 28th, at 8:12pm. 8 pounds, 12 ounces, 20.5 inches long, and a 10/10 apgar score.*



*Tamra, April, and James*

## Jack & Jill Finals

Well our Jack & Jill finals for 2008 are now history. It was an exciting night. If you did not know, our Club awards \$1000 in prize money for the finals. Winning is always exciting, more so if you get some cash. I want to extend a big thank you to our head judge Jeannie Tucker. She ran the judges' meeting and our contestants' meeting as well as overseeing the judging on the floor. She was clear, concise and informative so that everyone knew what was expected and the contest went off without a hitch. If you don't know who Jeannie Tucker is she is a Champion dancer with national recognition who lives and teaches right here in Tucson. Also a special thanks to Phoenix members Bob Brown (the DJ) and Mike McInteer (judge). None of our finals events would be possible without help from Phoenix dancers. Eleanor Schrandt was our MC as well as the set-up coordinator. Thank you as well to the other judges: Louis and Jean Rojo and Matthew Loukopoulos. And the excellent Jack & Jill program was designed by Tamra Hood.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the work of putting on the finals. Our goal is to leave the dancers to be free from any details except their dance. If you didn't realize that there is big prize money involved or have just been waiting to compete, now is the time to start. The new contest season is here, starting in September. If I don't see you there, I'll see you out dancing

*Bill Garrity*

## Finals music

Courtesy of DJ Bob Brown.

*Novice:* Pop Contemporary

1. Fighter (Hani remix) - Christina Aguilera
2. Makes Me Wonder - Maroon 5
3. Superstar - Jamelia
4. Getaway Car - Hall and Oates
5. (All Skate) The Beast - Donny and the Royals

*Intermediate:* Pop and R&B

1. I'll Make You Dance - Elliot Yamin
2. Just Chillin' - Craig David
3. Can We Chill - Ne-Yo
4. Boogie Tonight - Sisaundra Lewis
5. Wicked - Jupiter Rising
6. Fill Me In - Craig David
7. Taste It - Blue
8. Dance Like It's Sunday - Trin-I-Tee
9. (All Skate) Just The Kind of Man I Am - Mike Morgan and the Crawl

*Advanced:* Slow Blues and Hip-Hop

1. Shop Around - L.A. Blues Alliance, and In Da Wind - Trick Daddy
2. Baby I Love You - Candice Devine, and The Way I Are - Timbaland
3. Shaky Ground - Etta James, and Sugar - Trick Daddy
4. The Continental Stroll, Part 1 - Sil Austin, and Word Up - Snoop Dog
5. (All Skate) 25 Miles - The Three Amigos

## On the road

At the Summer Dance Camp in Palm Springs, California, Cassey Olson was 4th in the Advanced Jack & Jill and Scott Miller was 5th. Scott also was 2nd in the Master's Jack & Jill, and Wendy Miller was 2nd in the All Stars/Champions Jack & Jill.

## New members

Welcome John Calvo, Sylvia Berman, Kathy Rallman, Margo Barrows, Linda Kern, and Barbara Nersesian.

## Birthdays

Members get in free the week of their birthday!

September 8th: Tamra Hood

September 10th: Christina Dewitt

September 13th: Nicole Gullick

September 18th: Dana Belasco

September 20th: Laurie Krupski

September 23rd: Heather McLean

September 26th: Jane Morgan

September 29th: Ester Huolubiczko

## September's video link

Check the website at [www.tsdn.net](http://www.tsdn.net) for a link to Jordan Frisbee and Melina Ramirez at Easter Swing in Seattle.

## Westcoast Dance Wednesday is back!

Just like it used to be only better!

**Where: ABC / Arizona Ballroom Co.** 5536 E. Grant near Safeway & Burger King / cross streets S.E. corner Cray Croft & Grant.

**When: Every Wednesday.** Beginner's lesson 7-8pm. Open dancing 8-10:30pm.

**How much: Only \$5** for both lesson and dancing. For more information or join our email list, send an email to: [westcoastwednesday@nightwing.us](mailto:westcoastwednesday@nightwing.us) or call 520-298-7636.

## 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)

## 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			

## MEMBERSHIP DEAL!

For the month of September, pay \$35 and get a membership for the rest of 2008 **and** all of 2009!

## Local WCS instructors

- Ellen Colonna: 520-548-6777
- Jesse Dickson: [jessedickson.com](http://jessedickson.com)
- Wendy Miller: 520-318-9236
- L Perez: 520-792-2067
- Ro Vaughn: 520-808-9398

## What judges look for

What are the judges looking for?

Because each judge is individual and has their own likes and dislikes, the answer to this question can vary to some degree; some judges focus on the entertainment value, while others are looking more at the technical elements of the dance.

However there are some underlying criteria that all judges should follow. These criteria are commonly referred to as the Three T's; timing, technique, and teamwork.

Without getting too technical, swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Dancers get points for timing based on their ability to transfer weight on the correct beat of the music, or "on time."

Technique is often referred to as "how well you do what you do." For example, how well the dancers execute the movements in their dance, proper foot placement, turns and spins, control of balance, and how the body looks in motion and in relation to your partner and the music.

Teamwork is the ability for partners to work as a team, the demonstration of connection and lead and follow between the partners. One partner should not be trying to "out dance" the other. There should be a basic partnership displayed.

Beyond the Three T's, the judges will also be taking note of showmanship and presentation, that extra something that sets a dancer apart from the crowd or catches the attention of the audience, and, of course, any errors made during the dance.

Always feel free to ask a judge for input and/or read any comments made on the score sheets. It is best to try to catch a judge on the night of the contest while your dance is fresh in their mind. And the score sheets guidelines we have developed that our evaluators use in order to place contestants into a particular division are made available on the stage after the results are presented.

If you are interested in being an apprentice judge at an upcoming contest and/or training to judge at our Club, please contact me at [swngdans@aol.com](mailto:swngdans@aol.com) or come find me on a Thursday night.

For those of you who are interested in competing at the Club and have not yet evaluated into a division, below is a list of guidelines we have developed that our evaluators use in order to place contestants into a particular division.

### *Novice:*

Must be able to execute the 10 basic patterns;  
Must end patterns with anchor step;  
Must dance "on time";  
Followers must step forward with right on 1,  
Leaders "step" back with left on 1.

### *Intermediate:*

In addition to Novice requirements...  
Must be able to execute patterns beyond the 10 basics comfortably;  
Must execute steps and turns on balance;  
Must display a high degree of connection in their lead/follow;  
Must have some degree of musical interpretation, to include hitting obvious breaks, phrasing, personal styling

### *Advanced:*

In addition to Novice and Intermediate requirements...  
Must display high degree of teamwork, dancing with partner, playing off of partner;  
Can compensate for a weak/bad lead or follow;  
Must display high degree of musical interpretation in majority of the dance (with solid technique);  
Must display ability to interpret/play to music without adversely affecting partner;  
Must display ability to lead/follow to a variety of rhythms/song styles;  
Must be able to lead/follow a variety of dancers' levels/styles.

PLEASE NOTE: Evaluations take place on the last Thursday of every month during the Jack & Jill season. HOWEVER, because there is no dance on September 25th, there will be no evaluations in September. Sorry for the inconvenience! If you have any questions, please feel free to track me down!

*Ellen Colonna*

Head Judge

## **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.

Debbie Burke is the Event Liaison, 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.

## **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.

# **TSDC ANNIVERSARY PARTY!**

## **SEPTEMBER 18TH**

## **THEME: ELVIS LIVES!**

## **WEAR YOUR '50s OR '60s OUTFITS**

## **BRING A DISH AND GET IN FREE!**

## **LIVE MUSIC BY THE BAD NEWS BLUES BAND**

# 2008 Jack & Jill Finals



*Novice: 1st place Matt Rounseville and Vera Tucker, 2nd Bruce Johnston and Bri Mergenthaler, 3rd Jeff Brucker and Anna Vaughn-Basden*



*Intermediate: 1st place Martin Rubio and Cathy Schreiber, 2nd Chris McLean and Heather McLean, 3rd Tom White and Brooke Schilling*

*Photos by Chris McLean*



*Advanced: 1st place L Perez and Ellen Colonna, 2nd Hondo Velasco and Jane Morgan, 3rd Ro Vaughn and Ellen Colonna*



*DJ Bob Brown*



*Emcee Eleanor Schrandt*



*Judges: L-R Mike McInteer, Matthew Loukopoulos, Louis Rojo, Jean Rojo, and Head Judge Jeannie Tucker*



*The new season begins September 11th!*