

# The Tucson Swing Dance Club's November 2008

# Newsletter

## This month

Wendy Miller and James Hood are November's volunteer dance instructors.

- Thursday, November 6th: **Jack & Jill contest**. Sign up deadline is 8:45pm. Scott Miller is the DJ.
- Saturday, November 8th: **TSDC November Workshop** at the Arizona Ballroom Company, 5536 E Grant Road. See the insert for details.
- Tuesday, November 11th: Board meeting 7pm at Something Sweet, 5319 E Speedway Blvd
- Thursday, November 13th: Scott Miller is the DJ.
- Saturday, November 15th: Happy Hour at the Maverick, 6622 E Tanque Verde Rd, from 7-9pm.
- Thursday, November 20th: Jim Davis is the DJ. **Jack & Jill evaluations** for new competitors.
- Thursday, November 27th: **closed** for Thanksgiving.

## Upcoming events

- Saturday, December 13th: **TSDC Christmas Party** at the Tucson Convention Center. See the insert for details.



*Halloween 2008*

## Inside

President's message.....	2
New members .....	2
November's video link .....	2
Local WCS instructors .....	2
October Jack & Jill results .....	3
On the road .....	3
Why I compete .....	4
TSDC 2008-2009 Board .....	5
Dance lessons at the club .....	5
About the TSDC .....	5
Ad rates .....	5

## President's message

Hi Everyone-

If you have not already purchased your ticket for the November Workshop, please do so! You can get them at the front desk, or speak with our Workshop Committee leader, Sam Fox, to point you in the right direction. My goal is for our club to host 3 workshops a year, however this is only possible with YOUR support. Whether you are new to the WCS scene or an experienced dancer, the workshops put on by Wendy, Michael and Amber will be a great benefit to you. So come prepared to learn new techniques and concepts, and bring a dish to share at the potluck dance afterward. I'll see you all there!



Don't forget to mark your calendar for our annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 13th at the Tucson Convention Center. Buy your tickets in advance for only \$25 (\$35 at the door) and enjoy 6 hours of great music, dancing, a late night breakfast buffet, and special performances. See the flyer insert for details. Don't miss the biggest TSDC party of the year!

Remember, there will be no club dance on Thursday, November 27. Happy Thanksgiving!

*James*

## New members

Welcome Marla Rapoport, Jan Chen, Julie Goss, Sylvia Berman, Anna Schill, Lacey Petterson, and Amy Grace.

## November's video link

Check the website at [www.tsdc.net](http://www.tsdc.net) for a link to the latest WCS video clip.

## Local WCS instructors

- Laurence Bonfoey:  
[www.dontdelaydancetoday.com](http://www.dontdelaydancetoday.com)
- Ellen Colonna: 520-548-6777
- Jesse Dickson: [jessedickson.com](http://jessedickson.com)
- Tamra Hood: 520-360-4891, email [wcsdancers@gmail.com](mailto:wcsdancers@gmail.com)
- Wendy Miller: 520-318-9236,  
[www.wendymillerdance.com](http://www.wendymillerdance.com)
- Cassey Olson: 602-750-7368
- L Perez: 520-792-2067
- Ro Vaughn: 520-260-2200

### **Desert Garden Design**

*Landscape Plans and Consultations*

Specializing in help for the do-it-yourselfer's & people needing an extreme landscape make over. I design with **YOU** in mind!

**Vicki France 519-9324**  
[www.desertgardendesign.com](http://www.desertgardendesign.com)

## October Jack & Jill results

- Novice: Matt Rounseville and Martha McLeod were in 1st place, Kevin Burke and Robin Chlad were 2nd, and Kevin Burke and Kim Kirkpatrick were 3rd.
- Intermediate: Robert Grace and Maryanne O'Shaughnessy were in 1st place, Tom Fox and Lynnette Carter were 2nd, and Chris McLean and Sam Fox were 3rd.
- Advanced: Ro Vaughn and Tamra Hood were in 1st place, Scott Miller and Jane Morgan were 2nd, and Hondo Velasco and Raquel Montanez were 3rd.

## On the road

At Boogie by the Bay in Burlingame, California, Cassey Olson was in 1st place in the Advanced Jack & Jill, and Wendy Miller was in 1st place in the All-Stars Jack & Jill. Cassey Olson was also in 1st place, and Wendy Miller 2nd, in the Advanced Strictly Swing.

*Jack & Jill competitors, please note that the sign up deadline is 8:45pm. That is a **firm** deadline; the contest staff needs to have a complete list of competitors by then to run the contests on time.*

*Competitors also need to have a current club membership and have signed in with Susan at the front desk before signing up for contests. If you want to compete but you can't be there before 8:45 you can call someone to sign you in for the contests but you'll still need to sign in at the front desk too. Rosanne Crago has volunteered to do contest signups for anyone who's running late; you can call her at 520-403-6156.*



*Matt, Martha, Kim, Kevin, and Robin*



*Maryanne, Robert, Tom, Chris, and Sam*



*Tamra, Ro, Raquel, Hondo, Jane, and Scott*

## Why I compete

Sometimes I wonder if I'm completely crazy. I sweat bullets just *thinking* about competing, but nevertheless, I find myself on the dance floor in front of several national judges more times a year than I'd like to admit.



My students and other dancers are always surprised when I tell them this. And so the question always comes up: "Then why *do* you compete?". Good question- it is one to which I have no simple answer.

I confess that I am completely self-conscious when I realize someone is watching me dance. I also admit that I am not generally a "good" competitor. I'm a bit shy and reserved on the competitive dance floor, and the national advanced level is full of countless dancers that I am flat out afraid of competing against. And I would be a complete liar if I said I have never cried over not making finals, or having terrible dances that have landed my partner and I at the bottom of the list.

The fact that my own husband has incredibly good luck when pulling a Jack and Jill partner and loves competing (and is extremely good at it) makes my predicament even more difficult. It can be tough to watch your own partner take first place in the same competition that you completely bombed!

So then- why on earth do I continue to do it?

Because I have learned that the more I face the things I struggle with the most, the more satisfied I feel with my personal growth. The more I have to be proud of. Yes, competing scares me. Yes, I get frustrated with it.

But, I don't want to just watch from the sidelines- I want to push myself to be the best dancer I can be. Competing forces me to do that. If I pull a difficult partner, I have to be an even better follower to make the dance work. If I'm so nervous that I'm shaking, I have to concentrate even more on the person that I am dancing with to give them the best dance possible. If my partner and I have a connection break or I lose my footing, I have to be creative on the spot to make it look like it was on purpose.

But... then there are those times when I pull a Jack and Jill partner who says, "Wow- that was the best dance I've had all weekend!". Or a judge comes up to me afterwards to tell me they enjoyed watching me dance. Or my husband and I take first place in an Advanced Strictly Swing. Or I pull a great partner in the Jack and Jill and I come home with a trophy and a cash prize.

Then there is the ultimate compliment: "I really love watching you dance- it's just so inspiring." To think that someone is inspired by my sloppy, nervous dance makes me remember why I do it. It is because somewhere along the way, I have watched those dancers who have lit a light of excitement in me and made me wonder how incredible it would feel to dance even half as well as them.

If I keep competing, it will only make me a better dancer. And if nothing else, I can at least be proud of that accomplishment.

*Tamra Hood*

TSDC Music Director and national competitor

## 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 Contest 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, and closed basic.
- Third Thursday: Sugarpush, tuck throwout, and turning basic.
- Fourth Thursday: Basic whip, whip with an inside turn, and 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).

## 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			

# Halloween 2008



*Emcee Eleanor*

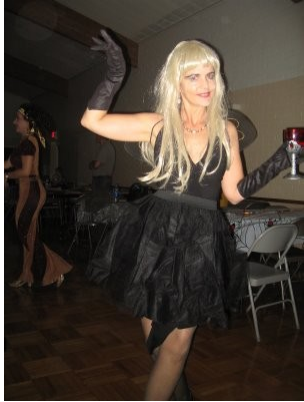


*The costume contest winners!*



*Yes, there really is a dance police...*





*Thanks to everyone who dressed up!*



*Photos by Chris McLean and Ellen Colonna*

# Join us for the TSDC November Workshop

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Wendy Miller- 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Michael & Amber Cross- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Dance & Potluck- 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm with DJ Tamra Hood

Arizona Ballroom Company

5536 E Grant Rd, Tucson, AZ

## Wendy Miller



### Body Motion Workshop

Learn essential elements of body movement as it relates to leading and following during this 1-hour workshop with national WCS Allstar/ Champion competitor Wendy Miller.



## Michael and Amber Cross



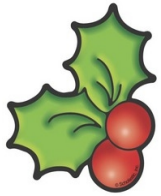
### Beyond the Basics

Take your dancing to the next level during this 2-hour workshop. Learn exciting new pattern variations focusing on crucial leading and following technique from WCS Champions Michael and Amber Cross.

***Workshops and Dance: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members***

***Individual Workshops: \$10/hour***

***Dance Only: \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members***



*You're Invited to the Annual*



*Swing Dance Club*

# *Christmas Party*

Saturday, December 13, 2008

7:00 pm – 1:00 am

Tucson Convention Center

260 S Church Street

*Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door*

Celebrate the holiday with us and enjoy six great hours of dancing, music by DJs Tamra Hood and Shawn Jessup, a late-night breakfast buffet, cash bar, and exciting dance performances.

*Contact Eleanor Schrandt for ticket sales ([tsdctickets@gmail.com](mailto:tsdctickets@gmail.com))*

*or inquire at the front desk.*

[www.tsd.net](http://www.tsd.net)