

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's October 2009

Newsletter

This Month

Ellen Colonna & Hondo Velasco are the volunteer dance instructors.

- Thursday, Oct. 1st: First Jack & Jill of the new season. **L Perez** is the DJ.
- Thursday, Oct. 8th: **Jim Davis** is the DJ.
- Tuesday, Oct. 13th: Board meeting 7 pm at Village Inn, 4245 E Speedway Blvd. All members are welcome.
- Thursday, Oct. 15th: **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- Thursday, Oct. 22nd: Evaluations for Jack & Jill Contest. **Ron Gonzales** is the DJ.
- Thursday Oct. 29th: **Halloween Party!** Come dressed in costume for a chance to win a prize. **Joe Erker** is the DJ.



Wendy Miller at Desert City Swing.



Cassy Olson at Desert City Swing.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, October 17th: TSDC Fall Workshop and Dance featuring West Coast Swing Champions **Ben Morris and Melina Ramirez**. Privates are also available...see Debra Burke to schedule.
- Sunday, November 8th: Judging Workshop sponsored by the GPSDC. **Jeannie Tucker** will be the instructor.
- Saturday, December 5th: TSDC Christmas Party at the TCC.

President's Message

I want to start off by welcoming Ellen Colonna as our new VP, Bill Garrity as our new Sergeant-At-Arms, and Scott Miller as our new Dance Director. Congratulate them when you see 'em next time. They should be commended for stepping up and working on behalf of our club. Volunteers like these have enabled this club to continue growing strong for 32 years! We still need a Jack & Jill Coordinator...if you are interested, please talk to Ellen Colonna or any member of the board.



This past week I've heard several people talk about how much their lives have changed as a result of becoming a part of the WCS dance community. Their excitement and passion for this dance is palpable. Mary and I got involved in this incredible dance a little over a year ago and it's completely taken over our minds. We think about it constantly! Does this sound like you?

Ellen says she can't remember what she did for fun before WCS. Sylvie writes beautifully about how much WCS means to her and how it's changing her life. Deb talked enthusiastically about undergoing a recent "breakthrough" in her dancing. It's amazing how WCS can work its way into your heart and soul, taking you on a journey of self discovery. It's a trip that is at many times frustrating, but liberating all the same.

Want to be a better dancer? Attend our Thursday night classes and stick around to dance afterwards. Take private classes from some of our excellent instructors. Attend conventions and workshops whenever and wherever possible. Dance, dance, dance and dance some more.

Make sure you attend our local workshop with National WCS Champions Ben Morris and Melina Ramirez. Even better, book a private with them! See Deb Burke to schedule. This will be a fantastic opportunity to improve

your dancing skills. The workshop is on Saturday, Oct 17th at Arizona Ballroom Company. Enjoy the potluck dinner and dance afterwards with DJ Shawn Jessup.

When Mary and I first got started doing WCS we'd hear about conventions and all day-all night dancing. We'd wonder what in the world would possess people to dance so much. Now we know!! Conventions are so much fun. You make new friends, hook up with old ones and dance until your body just can't take it anymore. You forget what day and what time it is. **ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS DANCE!** Many of us attended Desert City Swing in September. What a fantastic time! Set a goal to attend at least one convention a year. You'll be so glad you did.

TSDC was in the house at Desert City Swing! Can I get a whoop-whoop? Congrats to the many TSDC dancers who made it to finals and walked away with trophies. Congrats also go out to those brave souls who entered the Pro-Am and danced with the pros. They'll cherish those moments forever.

One of the reasons that my wife and I love this club so much is that we have so much fun here. Our club likes to keep the fun coming by throwing parties whenever possible. Who doesn't like a good party? Mark your calendars for our frighteningly fun Halloween Party on Thursday, Oct 29th. Grab a costume and come dance. The more people who dress up, the more fun we'll have.

At Desert City Swing the announcer did a very cool thing. He asked everyone to dance with someone they'd never danced with before. The dance floor immediately filled up with dancers. Let's all make it a habit to dance with someone new every week. Remember, the best way to make people feel at home in our club is to ask them to dance. See you on the dance floor.....

Zo Carroll

TSDC October Workshop

Featuring WCS Champions

BEN MORRIS & MELINA RAMIREZ



Saturday, Oct. 17th

Workshops 5-7 p.m.

Potluck 7-7:30 Dance 7:30-10

*****DJ Shawn Jessup*****

Two Exciting Workshops!

***Interacting with your Partner**

***Slick Side Passes**

Ben and Melina brought their talents together for a West Coast Swing routine in the summer of 2003, and have since won many titles together - most notably the Young Adult division of the 2003 and 2005 US Open Swing Dance Championships. They are both 2 time World Swing Dance Champions, California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Nominees, and 3 time US Open Champions. Known for their smooth style, infectious personalities, and enjoyable workshops, they have been teaching together since 2003 and now travel both nationally and internationally to teach, compete, judge, and perform.



2 Workshops & Dance in Advance.....	\$30 Members	\$35 Non-members
2 Workshops & Dance at the Door.....	\$35 Members	\$40 Non-members
Dance Only (no workshops).....	\$3 Members	\$5 Non-Members
Separate Class.....	\$20 each	

Arizona Ballroom Company 5536 E. Grant Road Tucson, AZ

Ben & Melina are available for private lessons. Space is limited. Inquire at the front desk, talk to Debra Burke, or email us at workshop@tsdc.net to schedule your lesson.

Dancing With the Stars...

Desert City Swing features a Pro-Am Competition where you get the opportunity to dance with WCS National Champions.

What a thrill...our TSDC members were all smiles!



*Deb Burke with
Champion Ben McHenry*



*Scott Miller with
Champion Kellese Key*



*Mary Carroll with
Champion Nicholas King*



*Tom Grubaugh with
Champion Melissa Rutz*



*Heather McLean with
Champion Pete Green*



*Jane Morgan with
Champion John Lindo*



*Jim Davis with
Champion Patti Jobst*



*Matt Rounseville with
Champion Jessica Cox*



*Vicki France with
Champion Edwin Li*



*Lacey Petterson with
Champion Martin Parker*

**Special thanks to
Chris McLean & Matt Rounseville
For all the newsletter photos!**



Sidewalk Dancing By Sylvie Morel-Seytoux

So sometimes I wonder ... what's happening to me? I dance on the sidewalks as I run every morning in my neighborhood. I dance around by myself at Bally's Total Fitness like a fool. I wake up dreaming about dance. I dance around my kitchen as I make coffee for my sweet husband (Matt) every morning....and I swear, Matt dances in the aisles when I'm shopping for clothes! Yikes... what b wrong wit me!? He he. I guess I've completely fallen in love with West Coast Swing.

Do you ever feel like there's something that is in your heart and soul...and it just has to be expressed or you'll just die? The coolest thing is that when I dance, I just don't care about anything else but the beauty of the music and the feeling of the moment. I feel like it's inside me ... so it's very moving to get in touch with something that can't be

captured in words. It takes me to a place so exquisite that it has no time or space ... only beauty in its ultra-purest form.

I've been taking weekly private lessons with Jesse Dickson for one year now -- so when I made it to Novice finals at the Desert City Swing convention last week, I couldn't wait to text him. I thought to myself, how thankful I am for all his talent and incredible teaching abilities. I thought to myself, how lucky I am to be part of the TSDC ... a place where you can walk in knowing nothing, and a year later, have the courage to compete at a convention. My husband has been my biggest inspiration because he always says to me, "You've just gotta show up, sweetie. You've got everything you need."



I've also taken private lessons with Tamra, Jeannie, and Wendy ... professional dancers who are an endless inspiration to me. I'm working hard every day to create my own style, and am so appreciative of the caliber of dance teachers we have in Tucson.



If you've never been to a convention, you've got to go! What I loved the most is how everyone is so supportive and kind. Everyone wants you to improve ... wants you to have fun ... everyone just "gets it" that WCS is an exceptional dance that takes tons of work, patience and passion....but if you hang with it, you can do it. After a little pep talk from Roger, a great dance teacher here in Tucson, I got the courage to ask some advanced dancers to dance at the convention. I spent the next hour dancing some of the most exhilarating dances I've ever had. It's the little ways that TSDC members support each other that makes me realize we are all in this incredible adventure together.

One thing I'm realizing is that WCS is a rigorous sport -- so I've been approaching it like an athlete this year -- strengthening my legs, shoulders, and neck muscles so that I can push my body to move how and where I want it to go. There are days when I finally figure out a move -- something as small as an arm movement -- that took me 6 months to get right. But when I get it, it feels so good ... like the move was always there, but only at that very moment was it ready to shine. Of course, many (many!) days I fall on my ass but that's fun too, 'cause it's all about having that drive and passion to get up and try it again.

It has been a great first year with the TSDC for me ... thanks for welcoming me with open arms.

Desert City Swing Results

Novice Jack & Jill:

1st Stephanie Springer
2nd Raquel Montanez
4th Nick Moor
5th Daniel Einfrank

Masters Jack & Jill:

1st Scott Miller

Advanced Jack & Jill:

3rd Ro Vaughn

Open Jack & Jill:

5th Cassy Olson

Male Pro/Female Am Jack & Jill:

5th Cassy Olson (with Parker Dearborn)

***Congratulations All....
TSDC Rocked the House!***

Got Convention Fever?

Boogie By the Bay October 8-11 San Francisco, CA
www.boogiebythebay.org

Halloween Swingthing Oct. 29-Nov 1 Irvine, CA
<http://www.centralcoastswingdance.com/halloween>

U.S. Open Swing Dance Championships
Nov. 26-29 Anaheim, CA
www.usopenswingdc.com/

New Year's Swing'n Dance Camp
December 31- Jan 3 Palm Springs, CA
<http://www.peoplewhodance.net/newyears/swing/>





Want to learn more about West Coast Swing?

In an effort to facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of the judging criteria of West Coast Swing, the **Greater Phoenix Swing Dance Club** will be having another **Judging Workshop** taught by **Jeannie Tucker**.

Last year's class was a real success, so don't miss this one! Come out **November 8th** and learn more about **Timing, Technique, Connection, Choreography, Showmanship** and more...

This workshop is great for anyone wanting to judge, teach or just improve their dancing. Bring your questions and be ready to do some mock judging in this fun, casual afternoon designed to improve our overall understanding of the dance we love.

Sunday, November 8, 2009

4:00-6:00 pm

Instructor: Jeannie Tucker

Seminar will be held at the VFW (Phoenix) 4853 E. Thomas Rd . Phoenix AZ 85018

October Birthdays

Members get in **FREE** the week of their birthday!

October 2nd: Linda Hale


October 4th: Virginia Parchment

October 4th: Darlene Jones

October 5th : Christine Daum

October 19th: Alfred Fragoso

October 19th: Bill Wieboldt



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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 every 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 1st through December 31st. 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.

2009-2010 TSDC Board

President: Zo Carroll

Vice President: Ellen Colonna

Treasurer: Martha McLeod

Membership Secretary: Jim Davis

Corporate Secretary: Heather McLean

Event Liaison: Debra Burke

Sergeant at Arms: Bill Garrity

Head Judge: Ellen Colonna

Newsletter Editor: Mary Carroll

Contest Coordinator: Currently Open

Dance Director: Tom Grubaugh

Music Director: Scott Miller

Club Photographer: Chris McLean

Website Administrator: Heather McLean

Publicity Director: Annie Schill

Hospitality Director: Eleanor Schrandt

Contact Us

We now have email addresses for most of the club officers:

President: president@tsdc.net

Vice President: vp@tsdc.net

Membership Secretary: members@tsdc.net

Dance Director: dance@tsdc.net

Music Director: music@tsdc.net

Hospitality Director: hospitality@tsdc.net

Website Administrator: webadmin@tsdc.net

Newsletter Editor: newsletter@tsdc.net

Mailing Address: Tucson Swing Dance Club
PO Box 32226
Tucson, AZ 85751

Ad Rates

Email ads to newsletter@tsdc.net and send a check payable to the Tucson Swing Dance Club to TSDC, PO Box 32226, Tucson, AZ 85751. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

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			

Local WCS Instructors

If you're a current TSDC member and you'd like to be listed here, send your contact information to newsletter@tsdc.net.

- Lawrence Bonfoey:
dontdelaydancetoday.com
- Ellen Colonna: 520-548-6777
- Wendy Miller: 520-318-9236,
wendymillerdance.com
- Cassy Olson: 602-750-7368
- L Perez: 520-792-2067
www.myspace.com/L_Perez
- Jeannie Tucker: jeannietucker.com
- Ro Vaughn: 520-260-2200

Why Have the TSDC Newsletter E-mailed to You?

.....Full-Color, Better Quality Photos

.....Environmentally Friendly

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.....Saves the Club TONS of MONEY!

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