

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's February 2010

# Newsletter

## This Month

**Ellen Colonna** and **Hondo Velasco** are the volunteer dance instructors for February.

- Thursday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>: Jack & Jill Contest. Sign-up deadline is 8:45pm. **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- Tuesday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>: Board meeting 7 pm at Village Inn, 4245 E Speedway Blvd. All members are welcome.
- Thursday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>: TSDC Valentine's Party. Wear your pink or red! **Erica Lyons** from San Diego is the Guest DJ.
- Thursday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>: **L Perez** is the DJ.
- Thursday Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>: Evaluations for Jack & Jill Contest. Sign-up deadline is 8:45pm. **Special D.J. Night!** Hear 4 new DJs play half hour sets.



*Advanced competitors, Hondo Velasco and Raquel Montanez, glide across the floor.*



*Tom Grubaugh and Robin Chlad bring style to the much awaited return of the Intermediate Jack & Jill division.*

## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: **WCS Boot Camp with Jay Byam and Michael & Amber Cross.** See insert for details!
- Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>: **St. Patrick's Dance.** Bring a dish to share at our potluck and wear your green!

# President's Message

I'm excited about how 2010 has started off for our swing dance club. We've been able to fill 2 board vacancies as a result of two of our wonderful members stepping forward to help out. I want to welcome Vera Tucker who has been elected as our new Corporate Secretary and Ewa Sikorski who has been appointed as the Publicity Director for the TSDC. We on the board are excited to work with both Vera and Ewa and know that both ladies will be welcome additions to our board of directors.



I'm very excited about all of the new faces at our club. Is WCS popular or what? On behalf of our club members and board of directors, I want to welcome all of you to the friendliest dance club in America. I hope you'll become life long members and I'm looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

Our classes are busting at the seams. Already this month we've signed up about 20 new members! Because we have so many people attending our Thursday night dance classes who are new to WCS, I want to talk a little bit about how these classes work. One of the best things about these classes is that you don't have to come with a partner because we rotate between dance partners.

From 7-7:45pm we host a beginner's class. During this class basic WCS patterns and techniques are taught. Each week, the classes become more challenging as additional basic WCS patterns and technique are added. This cycle repeats each month. You should repeat this cycle as many times as necessary to become comfortable with the basics of WCS. We break from 7:45-8:00pm. This is a great time for those attending the Beginner's Class to practice what they've just learned. It's also a transition time to the Intermediate Class which runs from 8-8:30pm.

The Intermediate Class is NOT intended for those who are brand new to WCS. Before attending the Intermediate Class you should be able to execute basic WCS patterns and technique. The Intermediate Class is designed to move fairly rapidly and challenge more advanced dancers. It is highly recommended that you have been through at least 3 cycles of the Beginner's Class before attempting the Intermediate Class. This ensures that intermediate dancers receive challenging instruction and that beginners do not slow down the class.

From 8:30-10:30pm we have open dancing hosted by one of our great DJs. This is when the real fun begins. This is a fantastic time to practice, meet new people and dance, dance dance! Come on now, where can you have this much fun for so little money? All levels of dancers dance with each other. It doesn't matter whether it's your first night doing WCS or you've been doing it for years, these dances aren't to be missed. It's the most fun you can have with your shoes on!

Remember our Valentine's Party is on Thursday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. Get in the spirit by wearing red or pink and have a "sweet" time dancing the night away! See you on the dance floor....

## Zo Carroll

*Now forming*

### TSDC 2010 Performance Team

- *Work with a choreographer*
- *Learn new technique and styling*
- *Perform for the community*
- *Help spread the joy of WCS*



See Jane Morgan if interested

# January Jack & Jill Results



## Novice Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup>- **Matt Rounseville**  
**Sylvie Morel-Seytoux**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- **Zo Carroll**  
**Zofia Penrod**
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- **Bill Ganoe**  
**Mary Carroll**



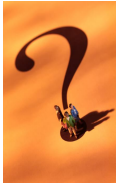
## Intermediate Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup>- **Harold Beatty**  
**Alexandra Devine**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Tom Grubaugh**  
**Robin Chlad**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Tom Grubaugh**  
**Vera Tucker**



## Advanced Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup>- **Robert Grace**  
**Wendy Miller**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- **Hondo Velasco**  
**Raquel Montanez**
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- **Scott Miller**  
**Jane Morgan**



## Ask the Swing Lady

*Dear Swing Lady,*

*What is meant by "dancing behind the beat?"*

If you've ever been to a Junior High School band performance, you will have heard what being "behind the beat" can sound like.

In general, we dance West Coast Swing on the beat of the music. Sometimes, a leader or follower will get "ahead" of him/herself, anticipating the music and dance "in front of the beat." At other times, the dancer will lag slightly and that is what is meant by dancing "behind the beat." Dancing "behind the beat" means that you are dancing slower than the tempo of the music that's being played. As you listen to music and get more familiar with the rhythm and beat, this gets a little easier for you. It is the leader's responsibility to lead in time with the music, and it is the follower's responsibility to wait to follow what's being lead without anticipating, while still keeping in time with the music.

If you feel yourself dancing behind the beat, you may be able to adjust your body position slightly, by centering yourself over the balls of your feet, and that may facilitate your ability to dance on the beat. Your body may feel more prepared to dance on the beat as you adjust your posture a little. Your body may just need a second to catch up with your mind.

*What is meant by "flow?"*

Flow has to do with dancing to the music. It is about making the steps flow seamlessly into one another and not just be one move, then another move, then another move. It is about

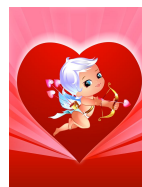
transitions. To some extent, it is the leader's responsibility to create the flow of the dance. Listening to the music really helps. I remember asking a young man, who had only been dancing for a short time, whether he was listening to the music. He emphatically stated that he was counting and figuring out what move to lead next and that listening to the music was low on his list of priorities. As you learn West Coast Swing, you have a lot to keep in mind, as a leader or a follower. As time goes on, hopefully, you will become more accustomed to listening to the music and making your dance flow more easily. One of the things you can pay attention to is how the music sounds - is it choppy and pounding or is it more smooth and rhythmical. As a leader, pay attention to the music and dance in a way that matches it - short, snappy steps or slower, closer, smoother steps. Sometimes, it's just a matter of experience, so be patient with yourself and give yourself time to listen and learn. Some things that can help are to listen to music when you're not dancing and feel the way it makes your body want to move. Then bring that feeling to the dance floor. It can also help to watch more experienced dancers and see how they create the flow on the dance floor. The more you dance, the better it feels - so keep on dancing.

*The Swing Lady*

*Thanks to Sylvia Berman  
for submitting this month's questions.*

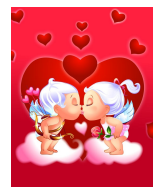
*Editor's Note: The Swing Lady wishes to remain anonymous, so please email any questions to [newsletter@tsdc.net](mailto:newsletter@tsdc.net) and they will be forwarded to her. Also when submitting questions, you may request that your name not be used in the newsletter.*

## TSDC Valentine's Party



**Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Special Guest DJ  
Erica Lyons  
from San Diego*





# West Coast Swing Boot Camp Tour

*Beginning to Advanced!*

*Feb 20-21, 2010 Phoenix AZ*

## Master Instructor Jay Byam

Director of the Palm Springs Event

## Champions Mike & Amber Cross

&

## Guest Mike Miller



DANCE LIKE YOU MEAN IT....

- \* DO you want to REALLY improve your West Coast Swing?
- \* DO you want to have FUN DANCING?
- \* DO you want to learn some cool moves & styling WHILE you are having FUN?

Then you want to come to Jay Byam's West Coast Swing Boot Camp!

Jay is the director of the Palm Springs Swing Dance Classic & he really knows how to help dancers improve while they are having fun. Jay has taught THOUSANDS of dancers & this weekend he is coming to Phoenix to share the fun with Mike & Amber Cross & Mike Miller, some of the best dancers in the west!

This weekend Jay will be teaching to modern POP & current swing music to really help you get your groove on!

Be sure to tell your **BEGINNER** friends, this is a GREAT WAY TO GET STARTED!

**Intermediate & Advanced dancers,**

check out the classes that are just for the upper level dancers!



*Info & Sign-up at  
[www.PeopleWhoDance.NET](http://www.PeopleWhoDance.NET)*

*West Coast Swing Boot Camp Tour Beginning to Advanced!*

**A West Coast Swing Weekend, Dancing to "Modern POP" & Current Swing Music!**

**SATURDAY FEB 20**

10:15am Sign in!

1030am Warm Up & Counting West Coast Swing with Jay

**11:00am "New Styles" for 6 Count WCS Beginning-Int with Master Instructor, Jay Byam**  
If you have never had a class with Jay .. You should COME.  
You will learn new things about your swing & you will have LOTS of FUN!

**12:10pm Beg-Int WCSwing Skills with Mike Miller**

1:10pm Practice - Dance & Have a Snack!

**2:00pm WCSwing 8 Count Whip Skills for Beginning & Advanced dancers w/ Jay B**  
Take these classes & really improve your dance skills! Lead & Follow w /connection, rhythm & music theory. We are going to work HARD!

**\*\* 3:15pm Intermediate-ADV WC Swing FUN with Mike & Amber Cross**

**\*\* 4:30pm Advanced Fun Moves & Skills with Jay B**  
"Ladies are Divas -MEN Lead " & the "Nebulous-Floating Anchor" !



**SUNDAY FEB 21**

10:30am Sign in & Warm UP!

**11:00am INT. WCS Timing & Phrasing: Hitting Breaks Putting your moves on the BEAT! W/ Jay B**

**\*\* 12:15pm INT. Tango Moves in your West Coast Swing & More W/ Jay B**  
This is gonna be FUN

**\*\* 130pm INT-ADV. WAY Cool Social Lead & Follow Moves W/ Jay B**  
Ladies STEAL IT! MEN get to HELP!

**\*\* These classes are NOT for Beginning Dancers!**



**Cost: ( in advanced )**

1 Class: \$15 :: \$18 at the door  
2 Classes: \$30 :: \$35 @ the door  
3 Classes: \$40 :: \$45 @ the door  
All Day Saturday: \$55 :: \$60 @ the door  
Both Days Special \$70 :: \$80 @ the door  
Half Price for Full Time Students!

**Location:**

VFW Post 720  
4853 E Thomas  
Phoenix, AZ

Please pay on line at [www.PeopleWhoDance.NET](http://www.PeopleWhoDance.NET)

or Mail check to :People Who Dance  
2025 Channel Dr, Ventura CA 93001

**Contact Info**

Jay Byam  
[jaybdancer@aol.com](mailto:jaybdancer@aol.com), 805\*405\*2946

Mike Cross 480-839-4335  
Mike Miller 559-464-5379

**Palm Springs Swing Dance Classic  
& Summer Dance Camp**

Aug 12-15, 2010

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

**Info & Sign-up at  
[www.PeopleWhoDance.NET](http://www.PeopleWhoDance.NET)**

# Looking for New DJs

**By Scott Miller  
Music Director**



Calling all people interested in trying a hand at DJing a TSDC club dance! February 25th is "New DJ Night". Four people can try playing a half-hour set of music for the dancing and listening pleasure of our members.

If you are interested in DJing, you will need a playlist with 25 to 30 minutes of music you wish to play and a means of playing it. You can play from your Ipod, your laptop computer, or on club equipment from one or more CDs (either standard audio CDs or MP3s are fine). Your playlist should have a variety of music styles and tempos that will make people want to get out of their chairs and dance. Ideally, songs should be less than 4 minutes in length and not too fast or slow. (90 to 125 beats per minute)

If you have questions or would like to have your list reviewed before you play, feel free to email [scottm@swingnut.org](mailto:scottm@swingnut.org).

If our first new DJ night is successful, we can plan on scheduling more nights like this in the future. Since we only have 4 slots available, we'll be booking the slots on a first-come first-served basis. Contact Scott Miller to book your time. You can talk to him in person at dances, by the email above, or by calling 318-9236.



**A special thanks to Randy Malak for arriving early each week to set up!**



**Ellen Colonna, Head Judge, knows how to have a good time, even when judging contests!**

**St. Patrick's Day Party**  
Thursday March 11<sup>th</sup>  
Bring a potluck dish to share!



## **TSDC Dancers Rock! National WCS Convention Results...**

### **Palm Springs New Years Swing Dance Classic**

Novice J&J-..... 8<sup>th</sup> Place Nick Moor  
Open Night Club Two-Step.... 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Robert Grace  
Advanced J&J.....10<sup>th</sup> Place Scott Miller  
Masters J&J .....1<sup>st</sup> Place Scott Miller  
All American J&J.....10<sup>th</sup> Place Wendy Miller  
**Champions J&J....1<sup>st</sup> Place Wendy Miller (WOW!)**  
Novice Strictly Swing....3<sup>rd</sup> Place John Calvo  
Masters Strictly Swing...3<sup>rd</sup> Place Scott Miller

### **Monterey SwingFest**

All American J&J.....4<sup>th</sup> Place Wendy Miller  
Champions J&J.....6<sup>th</sup> Place Wendy Miller

***Congratulations to our amazing dancers!***

## February Birthdays

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

February 4<sup>th</sup> Vera Tucker

February 11<sup>th</sup> Bill Garrity

February 14<sup>th</sup> Katy Rullman

February 17<sup>th</sup> Tina Mendenhall

February 22<sup>nd</sup> Randy Malak

## New Members

### *Welcome...*

**Barbara Bartell**

**DeAnne Blea**

**Gary Branson**

**Sara Chambers**

**Ron Cornett**

**David Guthrie**

**Lorri Hobbs**

**Elisa Hranicky**

**Cora Jacobson**

**Dee Orozco**

**Katy Rullman**

**Ewa Sikorski**

**Rebecca Townsend**

**Susan Wester**

**Tom White**

## 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.

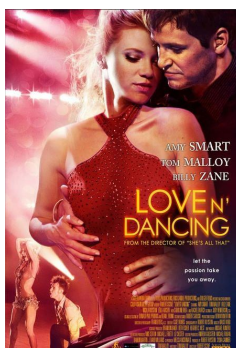
We recommend taking the beginning class for three months before going on to the intermediate class. Intermediate classes teach pattern variations, combinations, and syncopations beyond the basics.

## 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 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).



### Love N' Dancing *A WCS Dance Movie!*

*Now in Video Stores  
Featuring  
Many well-known WCS Pros*

*Rent it today &  
Show your support for WCS!*

## New Club Photographer

Matt Rounseville, who has been contributing photos to the newsletter for months, is now our official club photographer! A special thanks to Chris McLean, who is stepping down as club photographer, for his many newsletter photos over the years.

## 2009-2010 TSDC Board

President: Zo Carroll

Vice President: Ellen Colonna

Treasurer: Heather McLean

Membership Secretary: Jim Davis

Corporate Secretary: Vera Tucker

Event Liaison: Debra Burke

Sergeant at Arms: Bill Garrity

Head Judge: Ellen Colonna

Newsletter Editor: Mary Carroll

Contest Coordinator: Jim Davis

Dance Director: Tom Grubaugh

Music Director: Scott Miller

Club Photographer: Matt Rounseville

Website Administrator: Heather McLean

Publicity Director: Ewa Sikorski

Hospitality Director: Eleanor Schrandt

Workshop Coordinator: MaryLou Duckworth

## Contact Us

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

President: [president@tsdc.net](mailto:president@tsdc.net)

Vice President: [vp@tsdc.net](mailto:vp@tsdc.net)

Membership Secretary: [members@tsdc.net](mailto:members@tsdc.net)

Dance Director: [dance@tsdc.net](mailto:dance@tsdc.net)

Music Director: [music@tsdc.net](mailto:music@tsdc.net)

Hospitality Director: [hospitality@tsdc.net](mailto:hospitality@tsdc.net)

Website Administrator: [webadmin@tsdc.net](mailto:webadmin@tsdc.net)

Newsletter Editor: [newsletter@tsdc.net](mailto:newsletter@tsdc.net)

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

## Ad Rates

Email ads to [newsletter@tsdc.net](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:newsletter@tsdc.net).

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

### Why Read the TSDC Newsletter Online?

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

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*It's easy... just check the box on your membership app!*



Tucson Swing Dance Club  
PO Box 32226  
Tucson, AZ 85751-2226

