

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's March 2010

Newsletter

This Month

Wendy Miller is the volunteer dance instructor for March.

- Thursday, March 4th: All-American Jack & Jill. Sign-up deadline is 8:45pm. **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- Tuesday, March 9th: Board meeting 7 pm at Village Inn, 4245 E Speedway Blvd. All members are welcome.
- Thursday, March 11th: St. Patrick's Day Party. Wear green and bring a dish for the potluck. **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- Thursday, March 18th: **Ron Gonzales** is the DJ.
- Thursday, March 25th: Evaluations for Jack & Jill Contest. Sign-up deadline is 8:45pm. **Joe Erker** is the DJ.



Erica Lyons, guest DJ from San Diego, was intensely focused on bringing the best music possible to TSDC dancers at our Feb. 11th Valentine's Dance. She rocked the house!
THANK YOU TO ERICA!



Dave Erhardt and Cindy Hoppe enjoy a dance together.

Upcoming Events

- TSDC Board Elections are in April. Ballots will be available at the club and in the April Newsletter.
- TSDC Spring Workshop! Look for details in April's Newsletter.

President's Message

This month, instead of our regular Jack & Jill competition we will hold what is called an All-American Jack & Jill Contest.



This is a really fun event that anyone can enter. It doesn't matter if you're brand new to WCS or if you're a professional level WCS dancer. The response was so positive last year that we decided to bring it back again this year. I'll get back to the All-American a little later, but first let me explain about our regular Jack & Jill contest that is held the first Thursday of every month.

For those who are new to WCS you may be wondering just what the heck IS a Jack & Jill? This type of competition is exclusive to swing dance. Unlike ballroom competitions where you enter with a partner, in a Jack & Jill all leaders and followers are selected by a random draw of names. Choreographed routines are not allowed in J & J's because WCS is all about leading and following. J&J competitors are judged on their timing, technique and teamwork.

Jack & Jill's can be fascinating to watch because some leaders and followers work so well together that you'll swear they're doing a routine. When I saw my first Jack & Jill I couldn't believe that dancers could look so smooth after being randomly coupled together. Their ability to create "stuff" on the fly and make it look like they'd done it thousands of times before was amazing to see.

We hold a monthly Jack & Jill on the first Thursday of every month. However, in order to enter you must first be evaluated and be placed in the Novice, Intermediate or Advanced division. Evaluations are held the last Thursday of every month. You must sign-up for evaluations by 8:45 pm on the night you are being evaluated.

Jack & Jill competitors who place in our weekly competitions are awarded prizes such as free dance passes and special TSDC coffee mugs as well as points. As these points accumulate they allow dancers to be eligible to move up to a higher dance division.

You don't need to be an expert dancer to compete in a Jack & Jill. All you need are the basics. Sign up to be evaluated. You can start out as a Novice and move on up from there. You'll only compete against other Novice competitors. Entering Jack & Jill contests is a great way to improve your dancing and become more involved in the club. Even if the thought of competing makes you nervous, do it anyway. You'll be surprised at how much fun you'll have in the end.

The All-American Jack & Jill is different from a regular Jack & Jill because there are no divisions and anyone who is a member at our club can enter (no evaluation is needed). There are no points awarded, so the pressure is off. All the names of leaders and followers go into a hat and are matched randomly. This is so cool because no one knows what level of dancer their partner will be. It's so much fun to see who will get who. Maybe you'll get lucky and draw one of the club's advanced dancers! We don't have these very often so come give this one a try.

Just a reminder that the board is still taking names of anyone interested in running for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corporate Secretary and Membership Secretary. Elections will be held in April. See Jim Davis if you're interested.

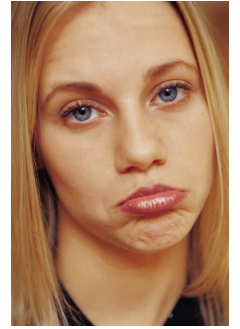
See you on the dance floor...

Zo Carroll

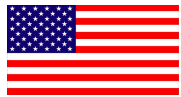




Something to Pout About...



***No February Jack & Jill Contest!
We missed all our competitors!***



Coming in March....



SPECIAL ALL-AMERICAN JACK & JILL CONTEST!



***Anyone can enter
No evaluation necessary
No divisions
No Points
No Pressure***



COME JOIN THE FUN on MARCH 4th!



St. Patrick's Day Party



Thursday, March 11th

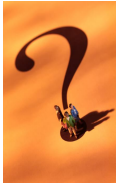


Wear Green and Bring a Dish for the Potluck!



No Irish jigs or river dancin'... Just the best WCS in town!





Ask the Swing Lady

Dear Swing Lady,

*This is more of a suggestion or request rather than a question. There are many excellent dancers in the club that we love to watch, but it can be very intimidating to those of us just starting out which makes it hard to ask someone to dance. It would be great if more of them would seek us out during open dance to help us practice. But **PLEASE** remember we are learning and getting fancy with us doesn't help us so much as it confuses us. We just want to learn so that one day we can dance like them.*

Thanks,

Just Trying to Learn Swing

Dear "Just Trying",

Lots of times, the more advanced dancers dance with the people they know and are familiar with. If you're just starting out and learning - watch people dance. Then ask someone to dance who looks like they might be fun to dance with. It's perfectly acceptable dance etiquette to ask anyone to dance at the Swing Dance Club. This is true for leaders or followers. If you're asking a dancer who's more advanced than you are, etiquette says - ask them once during an evening. No one, no matter what their level, minds dancing one dance with a partner, no matter how inexperienced they might be. Everyone starts some time.

In general, more advanced dancers are encouraged to dance to the level of their less experienced partner. Sometimes it's fun to have a more advanced dancer try a more challenging move. Sometimes it encourages you to stretch your limits just a little. It's not really appropriate for a more advanced dancer to just take over, "get fancy," and not take their partner into consideration. West Coast Swing dancing is a conversation - are you listening to your partner? If you don't feel comfortable with what your partner is offering, let them know. If you don't feel comfortable with the "conversation," speak up.

Remember, dancers are people and they put on their shoes one at a time, just like you. Be brave and ask someone to dance - you might really enjoy the experience. And, if not, it's only 3 or 4 minutes out of your life. Practice for a few weeks, then try again. You may be surprised by how far you've progressed in a short period of time.

And, advanced dancers - this is a reminder to you to look around the room and dance at least once with someone you might never have danced with before.

Bottom line - dance, dance, dance - the more you dance, the more comfortable you'll feel. Smile and have a good time, that's what matters the most.

The Swing Lady

Editor's Note: The Swing Lady wishes to remain anonymous, so please email any questions to 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.



Special DJ Night treats TSDC Dancers to the Music of Three New DJ's



***Thanks to Sherry Lotz, Bill Gano and Nick Moor
for sharing their tunes with us!***



March Birthdays

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

March 4th Linda Armijo

March 5th Matt Rounseville

March 6th Ellen Colonna

March 8th Jim Shiner

March 11th Doug McMaster

March 14th Jordan Taylor

March 25th Mahnia Villazon

March 28th CJ Wheelock

March 29th Sherry Lotz

New Members

Welcome...

Mike Boldi

Jan Chen

Ellen Clements

Britny Delp

Jim Embrich

Tatyana Gordievskaya

Jim Hannley

Joel Jacobson

Viki Jacobson

Candace Johnson

Jasmine Lane

Jacob McKeever

Katherine Menick

Sylvia Moran

Barbara Nersesian

Pamela Powers

Shandra Romans

Raquel Smith

Donald Stump

Sarah Townsend

CJ Wheelock

Ask a new member to dance!

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: 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

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



On the Road



Scott Miller placed 5th in the Masters Jack & Jill at Capital Swing in Sacramento, CA.

Wendy Miller made finals in the All-Stars Jack & Jill at Capital Swing in Sacramento, CA.

Congratulations, Wendy & Scott!

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

