

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's May 2010

Newsletter

This Month

Roger and Dana Belasco are the volunteer dance instructors for May.

- Thursday, May 6th: Jack & Jill Contest. Sign-up deadline is 8:45pm. **Jim Davis** is the DJ.
- Tuesday, May 11th: Board meeting 7 pm at Village Inn, 4245 E Speedway Blvd. All members are welcome.
- Thursday, May 13th: **Ron Gonzales** is the DJ.
- Thursday, May 20th: **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- Thursday, May 27th: **Sherry Lotz** is the DJ.



Jane Morgan and **Scott Miller** add their style to the Advanced Division of our April J&J Contest.



Mike Gadberry, host of **Desert City Swing**, enjoyed dancing with TSDC members when he was here judging our April Jack & Jill. **Cindy Hoppe** was all smiles during her dance with Mike. Thank-you for your help Mike...See you at Desert City Swing in Sept.

Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, May 16th: National WCS Champion, Luis Crespo**, comes to Phoenix for 3 workshops and dance. Email mkgadberry@yahoo.com for more info. Read in this issue about how much TSDC members enjoyed Luis Crespo's recent workshop here in Tucson.

President's Message

Hey gang! I want to talk to you about success. Over the years I have been fortunate to be mentored by some incredible teachers.

Many were introduced to me by others and some I sought out. I attribute many of my personal and professional successes over the years to their wisdom and guidance.



The principles of success that they taught can be applied to any endeavor whether it's making money or learning how to WCS. I'll just touch on four principles and how I think they relate to learning WCS.

Desire - This is the starting point for any success. Without a strong desire, failure or underachieving is pretty much inevitable. I've run into several dancers who complain that their WCS is not where they want it to be. They say they want to get better yet....their actions tell another story. You rarely see them at lessons, workshops and dances. As one of my mentors told me, desire without action is just wishful thinking. All great dancers have a strong desire to be so. How's yours?

Mentoring - It only stands to reason that if you want to get good at something and don't know how, you find someone who's good at it, can teach you how to do it and you learn from them. Even I was smart enough to figure this one out. Is there someone's dancing that you admire? If so, see if they'll teach you how to dance like them. Down the road you'll develop your own style. I wouldn't mind learning how to dance as well as the Champions. How about you?

Intensity - Getting good at this dance requires intensity of effort. To get better requires even more. This is why private lessons are so important. Group classes can only focus on the general aspects of WCS. Privates give you

a chance to really dig into this dance. You can WORK on your strengths and weaknesses while learning the finer aspects of WCS. Workshops and conventions are other great ways to up your level of intensity. If you want to get in some intense dancing, make sure you attend a convention (a word of caution-get ready for some sore, sore feet).

Frequency - Ultimately to get good at WCS you have to dance as often as possible. This dance has so many levels and cannot be learned overnight. Good habits have to be established which takes time and consistent action. You have to get out there and dance and work on dancing in order for these good habits to take hold.

So there you have it. WCS is such a cool dance, but can be so frustrating to learn. Try putting these four principles to work and over time your dancing will improve. You will become more enjoyable to dance with and will get more pleasure from this dance.

See You on the Dance Floor...

Zo Carroll

*Have you ever been to a West Coast Swing Convention?
If not, now is the time!*

*Two amazing conventions held
right here in Arizona!
Plan NOW to attend both...*

GPSDC 4th of July Convention
July 1st-4th
Phoenix, AZ

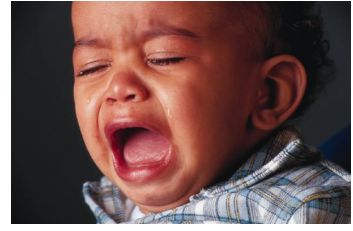
Desert City Swing
September 10th-12th
Phoenix, AZ

April Jack & Jill Results



Something to cry about....
No Novice Division in April!

Hope to see all our Novice Dancers in May!



Intermediate Winners

- 1st- Zo Carroll
Eleanor Schrandt
- 2nd- Tom White
Sylvie Morel-Seytoux
- 3rd- Matt Rounseville
Vera Tucker



Advanced Winners

- 1st- Hondo Velasco
April Amstutz
- 2nd- Scott Miller
Jane Morgan
- 3rd- Don Bennett
Heather McLean

Luis Crespo Inspires

By CJ Wheelock



Luis used TSDC's own April Amstutz to demonstrate many of his smooth moves.

After the Luis Crespo workshop, Mary Carroll sat me down and told me that if I didn't write up my thoughts about the event from my perspective as a newcomer to the Tucson Swing Dance Club, I would never make it to the front page of the monthly newsletter again. Terrified of the threat, I sat down to churn out a newsletter-worthy write up. (If you've ever met Mary, you'll know how absurd that scene would really be. She asked very nicely, and I accepted).

When I first heard about Luis Crespo coming to town, I did what I'm sure many of you did: loaded up Youtube and watched the man do his thing. I was very impressed by what I saw. I bought my workshop ticket and waited with anticipation.

Luis began the workshop by teaching a variation of the starter step. He broke down

the elements to the six count basic and eventually added a half turn and a whole turn into the pattern. In addition to the footwork, he noted key points for the leader and follower in turn to make sure that both parties could flow through the move. The additional half and whole turns were new to me, but leading them correctly wasn't a problem at all after watching him demonstrate and explain his motions. He mixed expertise and humor throughout his instruction and I found it very easy to follow along for the two hour workshop. Watching him dance throughout the evening was a perfect opportunity to try and imitate his "dancing on glass" style and gave me something to aspire to.

I spoke to Luis outside for a bit after the workshop as well, and found him to be extremely approachable and friendly. He stuck around after he was done teaching and danced with anyone who wanted to dance. I benefited quite a bit from the workshop, and I hope TSDC schedules many more in the future with dancers of equal expertise and charisma.



CJ Wheelock dancing with WCS Champion Wendy Miller at a previous TSDC event.



Dancing on Glass... Luis Crespo Sparkled

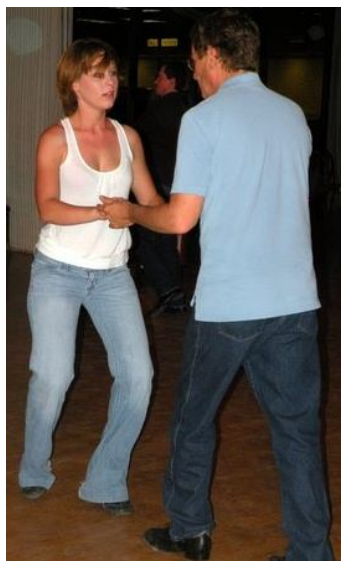


...and had us all shining as well!





***Special Thanks to Matt Rounseville
for all the workshop pictures...
You captured the energy and the joy!***



Luis Crespo Workshop Gets Rave Reviews!

Luis ... what a fun person to learn from! He really knew how to get us all dancing for the 2 hours of classes. Being new to WCS, I am a work in progress, but even I got to dance with him. Luis DOES seem to just dance on glass...he feels so smooth.

...MaryLou Duckworth

"Scott & I learned very nice moves...Luis is very gracious and danced with anyone who wanted to dance with him, regardless of their level. He made each person feel special."

...Tina Mendenhall

Wow! What a THRILL to dance with Luis! Luis uses a lot humor during his workshops and keeps things moving at a brisk pace, yet always explains technique clearly so that you're not overwhelmed. Zo & I took a private with him and walked away feeling so inspired. Luis's passion for WCS oozes out of every pore of his body and feels like a shot of adrenalin for any dancers lucky enough to be nearby!

...Mary Carroll



"It was like a breath of fresh air having someone so amazingly talented share his gift with us in such a generous way... and our private lesson was an inspiration!"

Thank you Luis!

...Sylvie Morel-Seytoux

"Excellent workshops and Luis stuck around later and danced for a couple hours after the workshops finished... which not every pro would do."

...Jim Davis

I hosted Luis Crespo at my house. He is a great instructor and person. If you ever have a chance to take a private lesson or workshop from him, I highly recommend it.

...Randy Malak

"First, a big thanks for the TSDC for bringing in Champion WCS dancer, Luis Crespo, into our little dance community. If you didn't attend or take a lesson with Luis, it was a missed opportunity. Every level of west coast swing dancer can benefit from the extra talented when they come to town. No matter what your dance level, you can always improve, learn some current style and trends, boost your creativity, and light the spark that makes us dance and get some new sizzle."

...Jane Morgan

May Birthdays

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

May 3rd Eleanor Schrandt

May 5th Jim Embrich

May 12th Jacob McKeever

May 19th Ellen Clements

May 20th Jim Hannley

New Members

Welcome...

Robin Cupp

Lori Elliott

Rich Petersen

Tim Powers

Ask a new member to dance!

On the Road

Nick Moor made TSDC proud when he competed at Reno Dance Sensation on April 15th -18th. Nick placed 5th in the Novice Jack & Jill at this National West Coast Swing Convention.

Congratulations Nick!

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.tsdc.net.

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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

"Ask the Swing Lady"
will return next month!

Keep sending in your questions to:
newsletter@tsdc.net



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