

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's July 2010

Newsletter

This Month

L Perez and Brooke Schilling are the volunteer dance instructors for July.

- Thursday, July 1st: **Club is closed!** Head up to Phoenix to dance at the Biltmore for the GPSDC 4th of July Convention.
- Tuesday, July 6th: Board meeting 7 pm at Village Inn, 4245 E Speedway Blvd. All members are welcome.
- Thursday, July 8th: **Sherry Lotz** is the DJ.
- Thursday, July 15th: All-American Dance Contest. **Ron Gonzales** is the DJ.
- Thursday, July 22nd: **Jim Davis** is the DJ.
- Thursday, July 29th: **Bill Ganoe** is the DJ.



John Calvo and Jennifer Goff strut their stuff across the dance floor.



Ellen, Heather and Don are amused by Zo's entertaining delivery of the club's weekly announcements.

Upcoming Events

- August 19th: TSDC Jack & Jill Finals.
- September 9th-12th Desert City Swing National Convention in Phoenix. For more info : www.desertcityswing.com

President's Message

Welcome to July everyone. I want to send out a special welcome to those of you who are new to the TSDC. Thanks for joining our little world of dancing crazies!! It's a very cool world to be a part of.



Let me just say it-West Coast Swing can be a PAIN IN THE REAR to learn. It'll get you so addicted that you'll find yourself daydreaming about and losing sleep over it. It'll frustrate you so badly at times that you'll want to rip your hair out. But, here's the really weird part....you'll have sooooo much darn fun while you're going WCS crazy.

Two years ago (in June) Mary and I decided to learn West Coast Swing. We have always danced together it seems (in fact, we met in a jazz class way back in 1980) and also did country swing("triple-time", "two-step", "Pony", etc) for years (since back in "Stumble Inn" days when the women wore squaw skirts and moccasins). How hard could WCS be since we already did other kinds of dance?

When we first got started we were told that it would take about 5 years for us to feel really comfortable with this dance. That seemed like a ridiculously long time and couldn't possibly be true. "Ha, WCS can't be that hard," we said to each other. Turns out, this was actually good advice (and we try to remember it when we get impatient with our progress). This dance is kind of like peeling an onion (and no, I don't mean the crying). There are so many different layers and subtle nuances to be learned. At each stage there is something new to be learned and it seems like even more to focus on. Learning WCS is a process that cannot be rushed. It flat out takes a long time to get good at it.

Here's the good news—**YOU WILL GET BETTER AT IT IF YOU WORK ON IT (and you just show up!)**. Just make that commitment to be at the club each week and take advantage of dancing with some of the best WCS dancers in Tucson (and the friendliest). **TSDC** is where THE DANCERS are and that's how you learn... by just dancing, and dancing, and dancing some more!

We were given another bit of good advice early on... to enjoy each stage of our WCS journey. There are times when we get frustrated and it seems as if we're never going to get a particular skill or concept (someday we'll be able to hit those breaks!). Despite any struggles, Mary and I always try to make learning this dance **FUN**. We're pleased with the progress we've made over the past two years, but aren't content with where we're at.

It's hard to believe that our first two years at TSDC have come and gone so quickly. Now our daughter Maya has joined us in this dance and we have to chuckle a bit when we hear her voice many of the same frustrations we expressed in the beginning. She's been at it for about three weeks and we can see the addiction taking hold. It's a beautiful thing to see!

So, if you're new to this dance (or a veteran of sorts) and still get confused with all this talk about walk-walk, compression, triple-step triple-step, tone, waiting on the lead, not leading too forcibly, relaxing your arm (but not too much), musicality, styling, and on and on and on-TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND RELAX. It'll all make sense someday and you'll get it. Again you can't rush the process, so just enjoy the ride!

See you on the dance floor!
Zo Carroll



Jack and Jill Finalists

Congratulations to the following contestants who qualified for the **2010 TSDC Jack & Jill Finals** to be held on **Thursday, August 19th**. It will be an exciting night, with a total of \$1000 in cash prizes to be given out! Dancers who qualified for the finals had the highest point totals for their division. Dancers are listed alphabetically in each division. **Please note that all finalists must be CURRENT members in order to compete. If you are a finalist and are not current on your membership, you must renew prior to the competition date.**

Novice Leaders: Bill Ganoë, Bruce Johnston, Nick Moor, Steve Slocum.

Novice Followers: Deb Burke, Tina Mendenhall, Martha McLeod, Annie Schill.

Intermediate Leaders: Harold Beatty, Zo Carroll, Tom Grubaugh, James Sisneros, Tom White.

1st Alternate: Matt Rounseville **2nd Alternate:** Phil Holton.

Intermediate Followers: Alexandra Devine, Robin Chlad, Sylvie Morel-Seytoux, Eleanor Schrandt, Vera Tucker.

Advanced Leaders: Don Bennett, Roger Belasco, Robert Grace, Scott Miller, Hondo Velasco.

1st Alternate: Harvey Dong **2nd Alternate:** Ro Vaughn.

Advanced Followers: April Amstutz, Wendy Miller, Jane Morgan, Cassy Olson, Brooke Schilling.

1st Alternate: Dana Belasco **2nd Alternate:** Heather McLean.



August 19, 2010 TSDC Jack & Jill Finals Attention Judges, Competitors and Spectators



Congratulations to everyone who qualified!

I am looking forward to being the head judge for finals this year.

Listed below are the meetings and sign-up deadlines contestants **MUST** adhere to in order to compete:

8:15 p.m. Judges' meeting

8:30 p.m. Contestants' sign-up deadline (note the word "deadline"....grin)

8:40 p.m. Mandatory contestants' meeting (mandatory means you must be there!)

9:00 p.m. Contest begins

**YOU MUST MAKE THE SIGN-UP DEADLINE AND
ATTEND THE MEETING IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO COMPETE!**

This is a special night and these are the Jack and Jill Finals, so you want to "**Dress to Impress**".
PLEASE DO NOT WEAR JEANS! There is a suggested (not mandatory) color scheme of red and black.

Best of luck to everyone!

Ellen Colonna

Head Judge

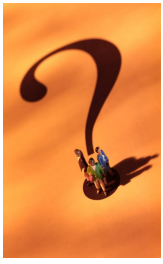
***Please remember that all finalists must be current members in order to compete.
If you are not a current member, you must renew prior to the competition date.**



Ro Returns...Bringing Smiles to All!

It's been a while since Robert "Ro" Vaughn has been seen dancing at TSDC. We've missed his exuberant personality and his amazing dancing! Ro, along with Lacey Petterson, will be teaching next month in August. Glad to have you back, Ro!





Ask the Swing Lady

Dear Swing Lady,

Slots, slots, slots. Now that the club has such huge crowds, maybe it is time to talk about slots and how they originated. It is hard on a crowded floor when couples are trying to throw in some east coast or lindy moves. Could you explain a little about slots for some of our members who might be new to WCS?

*Thanks,
Vicki France*

Dear Vicki,

For me, the most important thing about dancing is having fun. No matter what skill level my partner has, if he/she is smiling and having a good time, it makes the dance enjoyable. One of the things we don't want to be worrying about is getting hurt, especially by having someone run into us accidentally. It's useful to be aware of what's happening around you while you're dancing. Because we dance in a "slot," we're usually facing one direction or the other. Pay attention to what's happening over your partner's shoulder where they can't see. A small squeeze or gentle hold can communicate that someone is close by.

West Coast Swing is traditionally danced in a slot or track - the leader sends the follower back and forth along a relatively straight line. My understanding is that this slot concept was originally designed to be caught on film - in contrast most other "ballroom" dances which generally travel around the room in a circle. At the Tucson West Coast Swing Dance Club, we dance in slots that are parallel to the stage and the door. It really helps if most people are following that premise. I know that occasionally, people like to do East Coast Swing or Lindy Hop or Fox Trot and I certainly understand being moved by the music in those ways... but, on Thursday nights, it is the West Coast Swing Dance Club. So, if you're moved to do another dance, be very thoughtful and considerate of those around you. Pick a spot in a corner or out of the way, or even go up onto the stage where you don't have to be concerned about bumping into someone.

I'm not big on "rules," in general, however, dance etiquette is always a good idea. Whether you're paying attention to how your breath smells or how recently you've showered or how often you've asked a more advanced partner to dance or where you are on the floor - always be considerate of your partner and the other dancers on the floor. That way, the experience is more fun for everyone on a consistent basis.

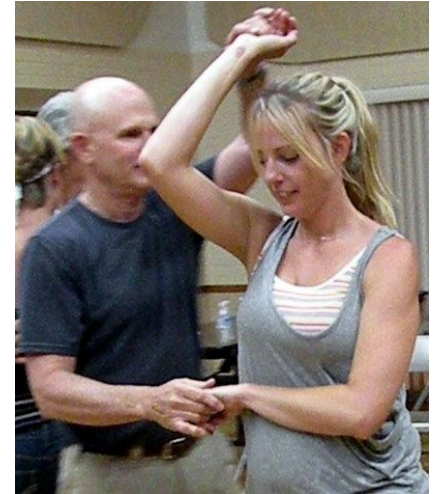
The Swing Lady

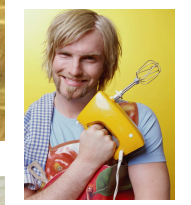
Editor's Note: The Swing Lady wishes to remain anonymous, so please email any questions to newsletter@tsdc.net and they will be forwarded to her. Also when submitting questions, you may request that your name not be used in the newsletter.



Mix it Up!

In June, at the suggestion of TSDC Music Director Scott Miller, our DJs tried out a "Mixer" immediately following the group lesson. These "Mixers" gave club members the opportunity to dance with everyone (even people they might normally be too afraid to ask to dance). Feedback was extremely positive, so we might whip up a few more mixers in the near future. Quick, tasty and a fun way to spice up your night! Thanks for a great idea, Scott!





July's Volunteer Dance Instructors:



L Perez and Brooke

L Perez was born in NYC and raised in the NY metropolitan area. At age 5 his grandmother taught him his first Swing and Salsa steps and he's been a dancin fool ever since! LP was a dance regular in the first 3 seasons of the TV show ClubMTV in the late 80s. Then, in 1993 LP began his career as a full-time professional dance instructor in Tucson. LP won many Advanced level, national West Coast Swing Jack & Jill contests before he was invited to compete in his very first Champion/Invitational Jack & Jill contest in 1999. After 6 years in the Champion level, LP finally won on a national level placing 4th amongst a field of top West Coast Swing Champion competitors from all over the country. Tragedy struck when he injured his knee taking a false step on the stairway to the floor for the Champion Jack and Jill at SwingDiego 2007 and even though he

endured and danced in that competition, his knee needed to be operated on and that meant his retirement from high intensity competition. Now he takes it easy on his knee, only occasionally competing locally in support of the TSDC J&Js. He continues to conduct workshops at dance conventions and competes in Pro/Am competitions. If you would like to be in a Pro/Am competition with LP as your partner, just ask him about upcoming Pro/Am events and he will give you all the details.

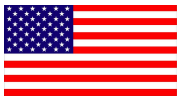
LP has conducted dance workshops all over the United States and is skilled at all partner dances. Since 2001 he has been the head judge of the Some Like It Hot Salsa dance event in Tucson. He has coached dozens of Tucson dancers including some West Coast Swing Champions since opening **DANZON!** School of Dance, the 400 square foot studio attached to his home in northwest Tucson. LP coaches and choreographs over 20 different partner dances in all styles (Ballroom, Swing, Latin & Country) from beginner steps to professional choreography at about half the rates of the "big" studios.

Brooke started dancing in 1999 in group classes in Boston. An analytical chemist by profession, she does not consider herself a professional dance instructor but she enjoys being her husband's assistant in their group classes and workshops. She is shy about competition. LP encourages her to be in the local J&Js, but Brooke is so shy that she won't even let him tell you about her many successes in the TSDC Jack & Jill contests.

Brooke and LP teach West Coast Swing classes (5:30 beginner and 6:15 intermediate) every Saturday at the Maverick for \$5 per class

To schedule a dance lesson at **DANZON!** call LP at 792-2067 or LPerezDncr@yahoo.com or view LP's website at myspace.com/l_perez

Coming in July....



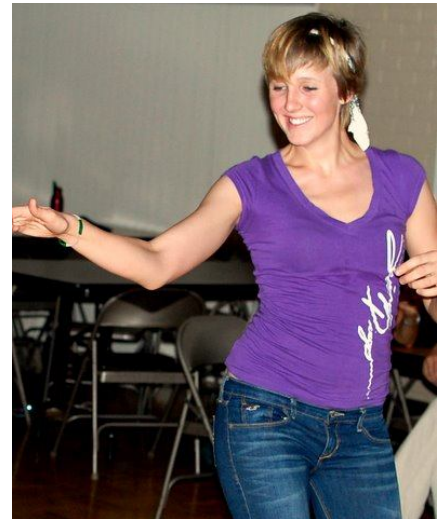
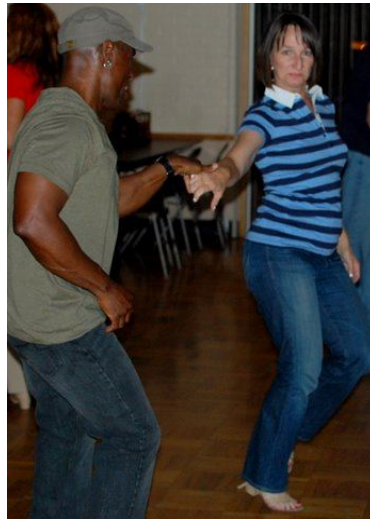
SPECIAL ALL-AMERICAN JACK & JILL CONTEST!



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



COME JOIN THE FUN on July 15th!



July Birthdays

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

July 1st Cora Jacobson

July 2nd Joel Jacobson

July 3rd Nick Moor

July 5th April Amstutz

July 8th Tim Powers

July 9th Sara Chambers

July 13th Sylvia Berman

July 15th Roger Belasco

July 23rd Eric Wade

July 23rd Amy Grace

July 30th Pamela Powers

July 31st Millay McAndrew

New Members

Welcome...

Ruthann Coyote

Mary Gonzales

Brian Petrie

Ram Voorakaranam

Ask a new member to dance!

Your Ad Should be Here!

Advertising in the newsletter is **affordable** and **effective!**

Contact:

newsletter@tsdc.net

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.

2010-2011 TSDC Board

President: Zo Carroll

Vice President: Ellen Colonna

Treasurer: Heather McLean

Membership Secretary: Tom Grubaugh

Corporate Secretary: Vera Tucker

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
- Matthew Loukopoulos: 520-248-7290
- Wendy Miller: 520-318-9236, wendymillerdance.com
- L Perez: 520-792-2067
www.myspace.com/L_Perez
- Jeannie Tucker: jeannietucker.com
- Ro Vaughn: 520-260-2200

***"Ask the Swing Lady"
IS BACK!***

**Send in your questions to:
newsletter@tsdc.net**



Tucson Swing Dance Club
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Tucson, AZ 85751-2226

