

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's December 2012

Newsletter

This Month

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

- Thursday, December 6th : **Caitlin McCarthy** is the DJ.
- Wednesday, December 12th : **Board Meeting** 7 pm at IHOP, 1500 W. Grant Road. All members are welcome.
- Thursday, December 13th : **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- Saturday, December 15th: **TSDC Annual Christmas Party 7pm-2am at *Shall We Dance***. See inside newsletter for more details.
- Thursday, December 20th: **Alex Diekmann** is the DJ.
- Thursday, December 27th: **Jim Davis** is the DJ.



*Bill Garrity looks like he enjoys his role as MC, as he keeps the contest moving and the audience entertained. A special thanks to volunteers like **Bill Garrity** and **Rosanne Crago** for stepping up to MC.*



Zo Carroll, TSDC President, and Heather McLean show some flair as they earn first place in the Advanced Division at our club Jack and Jill in November.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, January 3rd: **TSDC Jack & Jill**. You must be a current member and already have been evaluated in order to compete.
- Thursday, January 31st: **Melissa Rutz**, WCS National Champion, teaches two workshops. See inside for more details.

President's Message

Happy Holidays! The busy days are really upon us now. If you're like most WCS fanatics, you'll squeeze in time for dancing between shopping, visiting with friends, holiday parties, jobs, and family obligations.



Speaking of holiday parties, have you marked your calendar for TSDC's Annual Christmas Party? It will be held on Saturday, December 15th, at Shall We Dance. It will be catered by Little Poca Cosa Restaurant. At \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members, this is one heck of a great deal. At these prices, TSDC will lose money, but the Board felt that it was to keep ticket prices as affordable as possible. We want everyone to come out and celebrate another great year at TSDC. Remember, you must purchase your tickets at the club by December 6th to get these prices. After December 6th, tickets will go up \$5.

I was listening to some statements a sports announcer made the other day. He said that we should focus on today because it's the only day that really matters. Forget about yesterday he advised, because it's gone and there's nothing we can do to change what happened. Tomorrow hasn't come yet, so we shouldn't get too wrapped up in what's coming down the road. I believe in what he had to say, but we all know that this isn't how it works in real life. In reality, each time period seems to overlap in our thoughts.

I find myself looking back at what we used to do before WCS. Thursday nights were very different back then. They were filled with soccer, gymnastics, dance team practices, school meetings and helping our kids with homework. Back then, I never realized that this HUGE world of WCS even existed. I didn't know anything about Jack and Jills, WCS conventions, 6-count and 8-count patterns,

whips, starter steps, or sugar pushes. I didn't know any WCS champions like Wendy Miller or Luis Crespo. I remember Mary and I being told that it would take at least 5 years to get comfortable doing WCS. We scoffed at the notion. Today, almost 5 years later, we understand what they meant! It's like they say, "You don't know what you don't know!" More importantly though, I did not know that TSDC and all the wonderful people who make it so special, would become like a second family to me, and as essential to my life as breathing.

As I look to the future, I see our club continuing to grow while gaining a national reputation, as one of the "must visit" WCS clubs in North America. I see TSDC hosting its own WCS national convention someday. I believe that TSDC will be seen as the breeding ground for some of the country's hottest dancers and that additional WCS Champions will emerge out of our club. With our members continually being exposed to top national instructors through workshops and private lessons, the likelihood of this happening is definitely increased.

Today, as my thoughts weave between the past and the future, I know that I love this world of WCS. I love learning this dance although it frustrates me to no end. I love the fact that every Thursday night (just about), I can indulge in my passion and my addiction with others who feel the same way as I. WCS gives me the opportunity to connect with myself and with others in one of the best ways possible, through dance. Today I feel alive, excited and so fortunate that Mary insisted that we learn WCS. I appreciate where I am today in a journey that started almost 5 years ago. I know that the road ahead will only get better and better.

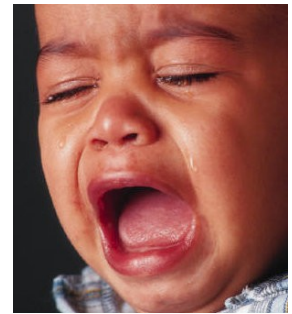
See you on the dance floor...
Zo Carroll

November Jack and Jill Results

No Novice Division this Month!

*Hope to see all of our Novice Dancers
in January's Contest...*

We Missed You in November!



Intermediate

**1st – Matt Rounseville
Karen Ward**

**2nd – Ricky Barfield
Madison Molera**

**3rd – Martin Rubio
Susan Spriggs**



Advanced

**1st – Zo Carroll
Heather McLean**

**2nd – Don Bennett
April Amstutz**

**3rd – Harvey Dong
Mary Carroll**



Special thanks to [Randy Malak](#) for taking photos during the intermediate contest while our club photographer, [Matt Rounseville](#), was busy competing! [Eric Wade](#) also deserves thanks for stepping in to video the entire Jack & Jill Night. Contest dvds are available at the front desk for only \$5.00 each.





Beyond Patterns

by Matthew Loukopoulos



Party Time

December is here and along with it are the related festivities that come around this time of year. It's a fun time, with friends usually getting together here or there at parties big and small. When you are at any type of gathering of Westies, there's one thing you can always bet on. Someone will play some music, and people will always find slot to dance in.

Dancing at them is different though. Floor space is always limited at a house party no matter how big the house is so dance floor space is guaranteed to be at a premium. Fortunately for us, West Coast Swing doesn't need a large amount of real estate. The nature of its slot makes it easy to find a spot to dance in. Dancing in smaller rooms like at a house party takes a bit more thought and effort and your floorcraft requires a lot more finesse than in a large room like at The Club.

A large majority of my dancing over the years has been on very small, very crowded floors. Years of navigating on such small floors around others who are unaware of their surroundings is one of the reasons why my dance is as refined as it is. There is a lot you can do in a small space and still have a great night full of great dances.

Before you dance, watch the floor. Notice it's size, and how many people are on it. If it's already packed, you'll have to wait your turn. When the next song starts, then you and your partner can go find your slot. Carolina Shaggers always do this. They never enter a dance floor halfway through a song,

especially when it's crowded. When the song is over they all instinctively clear the floor to allow those who are waiting to enter the floor, all with no dead air between songs. It's really cool to see and something I think we can all learn from.

During your dance, share the floor. Once you are on the floor have another look around and be aware of how much space you are taking and where your neighbors are. During the night keep your dance small and tight. All night. You can dance big and show off at the club when there's room. We know how good you are, we all saw you in the last Jack and Jill. In someone else's home, keep it small so you don't hit other people or bump into tables, knock down family pictures, etc. This is a shared responsibility and it applies to everyone. Everyone. Floorcraft, floorcraft, floorcraft. Keep your feet under your butt, your arms closer to your body, and your movements smaller and tighter at a house party. Every dance.

After your dance, get off the floor. You read that right. After your song get off the floor. Don't loiter in the middle. You hate it when people do that in traffic, right? Get off the floor so others can get on the floor. If someone else asks you to dance as you leave, go ahead and re-enter with them. If you want to dance with the same person again, have a look at the floor and if there is space, re-enter the floor. If there isn't, wait until the next song. I'm sure there's a snack bar to visit until the next song starts.

The food. Now here's the place to linger. Every party I've ever been to or thrown has revolved around two places. The dance floor is one, the kitchen is the other. Where you'll find the food and bevs, you'll find people hangin'. This a great place for conversation but not a place to dance. Bumping into someone here has a domino effect. Food, red wine, nice clothes, the host's carpet, you do the math.

House parties are a nice change of pace from the usual dance nights. The holidays always makes them a little more special. Remember though, no matter how informal the affair, you are still a guest in someone's home. If we all practice a little more common sense, we all have a better time. Have fun everyone. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and all the best for the New Year.

You're invited to experience a night of glitter, glamor, food, friends
and spectacular West Coast Swing dancing ...



TSDC Christmas Party

Saturday, December 15th

DANCING from 7 pm – 2 am

DJ Scott Miller

Buffet Style Dinner served at 9:00 pm

Special Dance Performances at 8:45 pm by

The TSDC Kids' Group &

UCWDC World Champs Colleen Concannon and Mike Zuspan

Door Prizes (including a TSDC Membership!)

Catered by Buen Provecho/ Marcela Davila of Little Cafe Poca Cosa

Menu: Pollo Ranchero, Hearty Winter Salad, Chips and Salsa, Cookies and
Cheesecake by Marianne Banes of Kingfisher, Coffee Bar, Assorted Cold Beverages.

Vegetarian Option available if requested by December 6th

Ticket prices were kept low as our gift to YOU!



Members \$10 In Advance

(must be purchased by Thursday, December 6th)

Non-Members \$15 In Advance

(must be purchased by Thursday, December 6th)



**After December 6th prices increase to
\$15 for Members \$20 for Non-Members**



Tonight is your night to shine...

So put on your holiday sparkle,

Get out the bling and

DRESS TO IMPRESS!



Price includes dancing, dinner, dessert, water or soda and coffee or tea.
If you prefer another beverage, you are welcome to bring your own.

*The Tucson Swing Dance Club Welcomes
National West Coast Swing Champion*

MELISSA RUTZ



Melissa began her dance training at age four. Three years later, she studied classical ballet at the prestigious San Francisco Ballet School for seven years. From there, Melissa studied Lindy Hop and Theater Arts Adagio at Metronome Ballroom. In 1999 she began competing with Arjay Centeno in International Ballroom and Latin, until they both found their true passion...West Coast Swing.

Melissa and current partner, Ben Morris, teach, compete, and judge all over the world. They are ranked among the top West Coast Swing dancers in the world both individually and as a couple. Melissa has won numerous champion level competitions. Some of her highest achievements are:

- US Open Strictly Swing Dance Champion
- 2-time US Grand National Showcase Swing Dance Champion
- 3-time Phoenix Champions of Champions J & J Winner
- Liberty Swing Classic Division Champion
- US Open Team Division Champions - Shazam WCS Team
- US Pro-Am Theater Arts Champion (1998), with coach Tom Slater

Melissa is available for privates!

Slots will fill fast, so book your lesson today!
Call **Karen Ward** at (520) 260-2963 to schedule.

Workshops held at: **Sonoran Ballroom Academy**
5536 E. Grant Road Tucson, AZ

Thursday, January 31st

Two Amazing Workshops!

7:00-8:00 p.m. & 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Dance 9:00-11:00 p.m.

One Incredible Price!

\$10 for Members

\$15 for Guests

Price includes both workshops, plus dance! Price remains the same all night, so come early and enjoy both workshops, as well as social dancing.



Win a Private Lesson with **MELISSA RUTZ**

*Buy your winning raffle ticket
at Melissa's Workshop
on January 31st*

*\$1.00 per ticket
or
\$5.00 for 6 tickets*

**Coming in January...
Birthday Celebrations
on the last Thursday of
each month.**



**Help us celebrate
birthday members of the month
with mini-cupcakes and
a birthday dance!**

Editors Note:

I recently received an email from Rose Marie Burrell, founder of the Tucson Swing Dance Club. Her words of praise warmed my heart and I wanted to share them with all of you!

I truly enjoy getting a hard copy of the newsletter each month. I especially like Zo's President's Message. He always has worthwhile information and good inspiration for the members. I appreciate Matthew taking the time and effort to give instructions in Beyond Patterns. Most instructors may feel their words don't reach the ears of the students and it's good to see so much information in print. It's true that each board member and volunteer contribute their talents to benefit the members and the guests to bring about one great social event on a weekly basis. I appreciate the work you put into getting it all together with the photographs that Matt Rounseville provides with all the action. I thank each and everyone of you for your 'love of the dance' which is what makes it happen. What makes me sad is that I don't know all of you. I look forward to attending the Christmas Dance this year.

*Still with passion,
Rose Marie Burrell*

We've invited Rose Marie to be an honored guest at our Christmas Party. I'm hoping everyone will take the time to introduce themselves and let her know just how much we love the Tucson Swing Dance Club.

Thank you, Rose Marie, for getting it all started so many years ago!

December Birthdays

Members get in FREE the week of their birthday!

- 12/2 Scott Miller
- 12/5 Sheldon Ross
- 12/6 Cris Candelario
- 12/9 Gavin Peratt
- 12/9 Leslie Wiechelt
- 12/11 Valerie Watterson
- 12/15 Bill Ganoe
- 12/16 Tyler E.
- 12/16 John Calvo
- 12/18 Mary Carroll
- 12/22 Derek Gin
- 12/27 Jim Buchanan
- 12/28 Robin Cupp

New Members

Welcome...

Nan Martin

Ask a new member to dance!

It's time to RENEW!
 TSDC Memberships expire on
 December 31, 2012.

***Congratulations to
 TSDC National Competitors!***

Halloween Swingthing (Irvine, CA):
CJ Wheelock.....1st Intermediate J & J

Sea to Sky (Seattle, WA):
Wendy Miller.....2nd All-American J & J
 Champions Invitational

US Open (Anaheim, CA):
Rehanna Loncar.....6th Intermediate J & J

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 Sonoran Ballroom Academy, 5536 E. Grant (the SE corner of Grant and Craycroft). 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 \$4 for members and \$6 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.

2012-2013 TSDC Board

President: **Zo Carroll**
President@TSDC.net

Vice President: **Ellen Colonna**
VP@TSDC.net

Treasurer: **Don Bennett**
Treasurer@TSDC.net

Membership Secretary: **Eleanor Schrandt**
Members@TSDC.net

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Sergeant at Arms: **Eric Wade**
Sergeant@TSDC.net

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Judge@TSDC.net

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Newsletter@TSDC.net

Contest Coordinator: **Hondo Velasco**
Contests@TSDC.net

Dance Director: **Tom Grubaugh**
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Music Director: **Scott Miller**
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Photo@TSDC.net

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WebAdmin@TSDC.net

Publicity Director: **Mindy Diamond**
Publicity@TSDC.net

Hospitality Director: **Julie Wilmer**
Hospitality@TSDC.net

Workshop Coordinator: **Karen Ward**
Workshops@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	\$7.00	\$13.50	\$25.00	\$35.00
Quarter Page	\$14.00	\$27.00	\$50.00	\$68.60
Third Page	\$19.50	\$37.50	\$65.00	\$95.00
Half Page	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$70.00	\$100.00
Full Page	\$40.00			
Single-Sided Insert	\$50.00			
Double-sided Insert	\$80.00			

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.

- Laurence Bonfoey:
dontdelaydancetoday.com
- Ellen Colonna: 520-548-6777
- Wendy Miller: 520-318-9236
wendymillerdance.com
- Lacey Petterson: 520-339-4643
- Colleen Concannon: 520-309-0735



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West Coast Swing
Jitterbug, Two Step,
Waltz, Cha Cha.

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