

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's February 2013

Newsletter

This Month

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

- Thursday, February 7th: Annual Membership Meeting. Nominations for elected Board positions will take place. **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- Wednesday, February 13th: **Board Meeting** 7 pm at IHOP, 1500 W. Grant Road. All members are welcome.
- Thursday, February 14th: Valentine's Day Party. Wear red. **Caitlin McCarthy** is the DJ.
- Thursday, January 21st: **Alex Diekmann** is the DJ.
- Thursday, February 28th: Evaluations for TSDC Jack & Jills. **John Calvo** is the DJ.



TSDC members are consistently exposed to high-quality instructors like **Wendy Miller**. Wendy is a National WCS Champion who generously volunteers her time to teach at our club. Tune up your technique, learn something new or get inspired at our club classes. Come check out what **Ellen and Hondo** have planned for you in February...they've got something to inspire and challenge all levels.



Cindy Sherman was one of the many followers waiting in line to dance with **Bryan Gin** during **January's Birthday Jam**. On the last Thursday of each month, TSDC celebrates birthdays with a Birthday Dance Jam and mini-cupcakes. The birthday people get out on the floor and leaders/followers line up for a brief dance (about 30 seconds or so) with each birthday person. Come join the fun!

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, March 7th: Jack & Jill Contest

President's Message

I cannot believe that it's already February! I swear, time seems to move faster and faster these days. Hopefully, your year has gotten off to a good start and you're well on your way to making those New Year resolutions become realities. If you've been attending our Thursday night lessons and dance, you know that TSDC has its groove going full out. People are eagerly attending our classes and our dance floor is packed with excited WCS fanatics. We have a fantastic blend of different age groups and many various levels of dance experience coming together weekly, making our club a vibrant, fun and inviting place to celebrate our love of dancing WCS. Invite your friends to come be a part of the magic we are creating every Thursday night at The Sonoran Ballroom Academy.



We have a couple of special events coming up this month at TSDC. We will have our **Annual Membership Nomination Meeting on Thursday, February 7th**. The club will be taking nominations for the office of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Corporate Secretary and Membership Secretary. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from annual/honorary life members who have been in good standing for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the date for taking up office in the new term, which starts in May. All candidates must be Arizona residents as well. However, no person can run for the office of President unless that person has been an annual/honorary life member in good standing for one (1) year immediately prior to election and has held a position on the Board for at least one full term immediately prior to the election. Here's your chance to really help make a difference at TSDC. Election will be held in April...look for the date in the March issue of the newsletter or on www.tsdc.net.

Thursday, February 14th is our Valentine's Party. Wear red and help add to the nightly fun. Hopefully, the dance floor will be a sea of red, pulsating, pumped-up and primed for **action** WCS fanatics. Who knows? Maybe you'll find your heart's true love that night or maybe just have a great night of dancing. Who knows? No matter what, it's going to be a good time.

I was reading a magazine article titled "Eyes Wide Open" by Martha Beck, who teaches others how to design their lives. It discussed two topics: *Knowing the Truth* and *Accepting The Truth*. *Accepting the Truth* centered on 1) avoiding denial, and (2) accepting our shortcomings. Naturally, I thought about WCS.

I don't think it's possible to make big improvements in our dancing without knowing the truth of where our dance ability currently stands. Being able to identify our strengths, as well our shortcomings, is essential before improvements can take place. Awareness is power. Private lessons are a great tool for helping to develop this awareness. Once we are aware of where we stand and acknowledge the truth, without denial, we can then begin to make improvements. It's damn hard sometimes to accept that we have shortcomings. I know, I've been there. There are plenty of things in this dance that we will fail to master without a ton of consistent work and time. We will sometimes fail to place as highly as we'd like to in Jack and Jills. That's alright. It doesn't mean that our dancing sucks, it just means more work is needed. If you are looking to become a top level WCS dancer you will have to look at your dancing with your eyes wide open. By knowing and accepting the truth of where your abilities lie, and then working like a madman to improve them, someday you just might become the top level WCS dancer that you envision yourself to be.

See you on the dance floor...

Zo Carroll

January Jack and Jill Results



*No Novice Division this Month!
Where were all of our
Novice Competitors in January?
Hope to see you in March!*



Intermediate

1st – Tom White
Karen Ward

2nd – Ricky Barfield
Susan Spriggs

3rd – Tom Grubaugh
Caitlin McCarthy



*No Advanced Division this Month!
What happened to all of our
Advanced Competitors in January?
Hope to see you in March!*





How do you feel about our Bi-Monthly Jack & Jill Dance Contests?

Since participation has been so low recently, the TSDC Board is wondering if our club should continue to hold Jack & Jill Contests? Would we serve our members better by dropping the contests so more dance time is available? Or would other occasional, more inclusive contests (like an All-American or Strictly Swing) be something members are interested in? How about brief spotlight dances, or WCS performances, every few months instead of Jack & Jill contests?

Your TSDC Board is open to ideas and wants your opinion. Let your voice be heard by filling out our upcoming survey. Each member who fills out a survey will receive \$1 off their entry fee that night. Only one survey per member.

Surveys will be available soon at the front desk.

TSDC Annual Membership Nomination Meeting

Thursday, February 7th

Nominate a friend for any of the following positions:

President

Vice-President

Corporate Secretary

Membership Secretary

Treasurer

In order to run for the board, you must have been a member in good standing for the past 6 months. For the position of President, you must have been a member in good standing for at least a year and have served on the board for at least a year.

All candidates must be residents of Arizona.

Beyond Patterns

by Matthew Loukopoulos



A while ago, I shot my mouth off that I would have a web-site. Well, not only do I have a web-site, but I upped the ante and even have a blog now. They are both a work in progress and will evolve as I get more web/blog savvy. Some changes you'll notice right away, others will just be me being too picky about things most people wouldn't notice. Mary Carroll knows what I'm talking about very well. She's the one who puts the newsletter together and gets the original draft followed by the revision(s) the very next morning after I've over-thought it and decide to change three words. She does a good job at it too.

In any case, my website is now on-line at www.swingdanceaz.com. From the home page, near the bottom, you can link to my blog or you can just go to www.swingdanceaz.wordpress.com.

My blog will have these current articles, some from the previous newsletters, as well as anything else I feel like writing. Both will grow over time, so feel free to have a peek now and then. Ok, enough about that. Let's get on with it. The Mysterious "&" in the Middle.

Part One: Straight Count

With all this talk about counting beats and numbers from the my last couple of articles, isn't there anything else we can talk about? Of course there is! Let me ask you this... Is there anything happening between the numbers? Huh? What? You read that right. What about that stuff in the middle? To be clear, in this article, as in most of your classes and lessons, numbers = beats. However, we are going to attempt the next-to-impossible. Through writing, and without me there to play sounds and demonstrate movement with you, we are going focus on the stuff between the beats. So you'll have to play along.

Ready?

Fire up the jukebox and play a song you like. Yup, again. I want you to listen to the music and clap each beat. Clap, not snap, crackle, and pop your fingers or wiggle your toes. Clap on each beat. If your hands are making a clapping sound on the beat, then what are your arms doing in-between thebeats? Have a look. They are moving.

Now, without music, I want you to count and clap. Here's your count. 1 - & - 2 - & -, 3 - & - 4 - & -, 5 - & - 6 - & -, 7 - & - 8 - & -. The numbers are the beats. Clap on those. (The commas are there to separate the count into two beat increments. More on that later. The dashes are there as visual separators of what you actually say). Watch your hands and arms and see what they do, where they go, and most importantly, when they get there. Also, make sure you count out loud when you do this. You won't get the full effect if you don't. Don't worry about others looking or laughing at you. If they laugh at you, their timing probably sucks and they don't have the guts to work on it. I got your back on that one. Ready? Count, clap and watch.

Here's what happens. I don't even have to be there to see it because I've tested it and seen it time and time again. Your hands clap on the numbers. On the &s, they are at their widest point and changing direction. It is important to note the timing of this motion. The time it takes

for your hands to go from the clap, which happens on the number, to their widest point where they change direction, where we say &, is exactly the same amount of time. The time it takes from their widest point to the clap is also the same amount of time. This amount of time is equal in each direction. This is straight count.

Straight count to us, as swing dancers, means that the numbers, and the &s are evenly spaced apart. The & falls exactly half-way between the numbers.

If we put this into a typical 6 count WCS rhythm it would look like this: 1-_-2-,3-&-4-,5-&-6-. Each number and each & is a weight shift. The 1-_-2, that's your walk, walk. Evenly spaced walk, walk. Simple. Your 3-&-4-, 5-&-6-, are your triples. In straight count they are also evenly spaced weight changes. Tri-ple-step, tri-ple-step. Think about Cha-Cha-Cha for a reference. Even-steven.

Some songs really call for it. Songs that have that evenly spaced boom-tic do well with movements that are evenly spaced from a timing perspective. Dancing with straight count for those will fit the music quite nicely. Play some music and try it out. Pick a song that feels like it's evenly spaced and try clapping. If it feels like it matches, you've got it. If it doesn't, pick a different song and try again. Then dance to it and see how it feels.

When do you dance straight count? When the song has that feeling where everything is pretty evenly spaced. Keep in mind though that dancing to straight count has your dance looking kind of mechanical and robotic no matter how much you smooth it out. Some songs call for it while some don't. Do you dance straight count all the time? Nope. Not all songs are straight count. Start listening to more music. Pick out the straight count ones and then note the others.

Next month it'll be all about that "funny triple" and how to make Swing really look like Swing.



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TSDC Dancers Compete Nationally!

Palm Springs New Year's Eve:

Ricky Barfield4th Novice J & J

Caitlin McCarthy.....4th Novice J & J
3rd Intermediate Strictly

Congratulations!

TSDC Valentine's Day Party & Dance

Wear Red! Enjoy sweet treats!



Be ready for some sizzlin' dancin' to the hot tunes of DJ Caitlin McCarthy

Do you LOVE throwing parties?



Would you like to help plan
fun events at the Club?



Join the Hospitality Committee!

Julie, our Hospitality Director, is looking for a few folks willing to gather and do a little brainstorming.

We are hoping to come up with new and exciting ways to bring fun and camaraderie to the Tucson Swing Dance Club.

Please meet with Julie to drum up ideas!

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 20th

Cartel Coffee Lab

(2502 N Campbell Ave)



Interested, but can't
make that date?

Email Julie at

Web@TSDC.net





February Birthdays

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

- 2/3 Doug Forester
- 2/4 Vera Tucker
- 2/5 Ricky Barfield
- 2/6 Lynne Doyle
- 2/9 Lacey Petterson
- 2/11 Bill Garrity
- 2/11 Nancy Brass
- 2/13 Susan Mann
- 2/17 Tina Mendenhall
- 2/17 Sonia Temyanko
- 2/19 Dasha Kai
- 2/19 Robert Neifert
- 2/22 Randy McNellis
- 2/22 Randy Malak

New Members

Shawna Prather
Norma Lazur
Ralf Deason
Barbara Neresian
Monty Norris

Welcome...

Ask a new member to dance!

**TSDC Memberships
Have EXPIRED!**

**Please remember to renew
your membership!**

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

Corporate Secretary: **Vera Tucker**
Secretary@TSDC.net

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

Head Judge: **Ellen Colonna**
Judge@TSDC.net

Newsletter Editor: **Mary Carroll**
Newsletter@TSDC.net

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

Dance Director: **Tom Grubaugh**
Dance@TSDC.net

Music Director: **Scott Miller**
Music@TSDC.net

Club Photographer: **Matt Rounseville**
Photo@TSDC.net

Website Administrator: **Julie Wilmer**
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

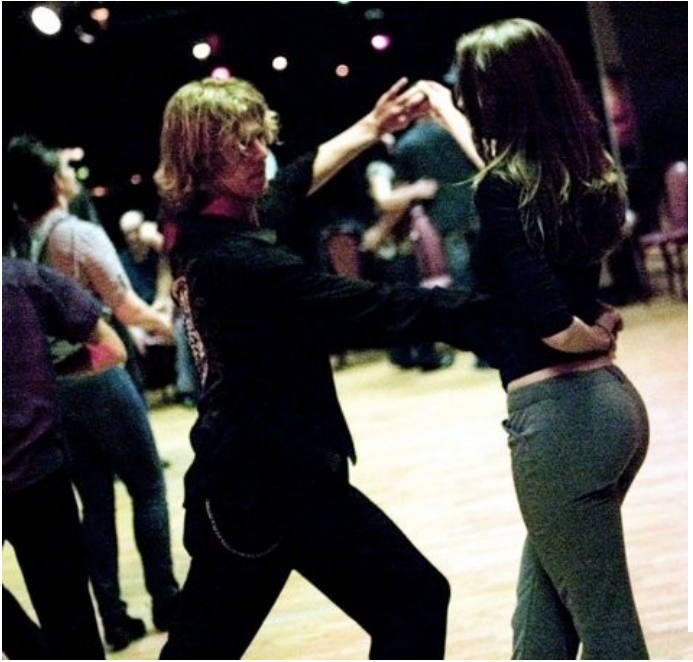
If you're a current TSDC member and you'd like to be listed here, send your contact information to newsletter@tsdc.net.

- Laurence Bonfoey:
dontdelaydancetoday.com
- Ellen Colonna: 520-548-6777
- Wendy Miller: 520-318-9236
wendymillerdance.com
- Lacey Petterson: 520-339-4643
- Jeannie Tucker: 520-325-4100
jeannietucker.com
- Colleen Concannon: 520-309-0735



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