

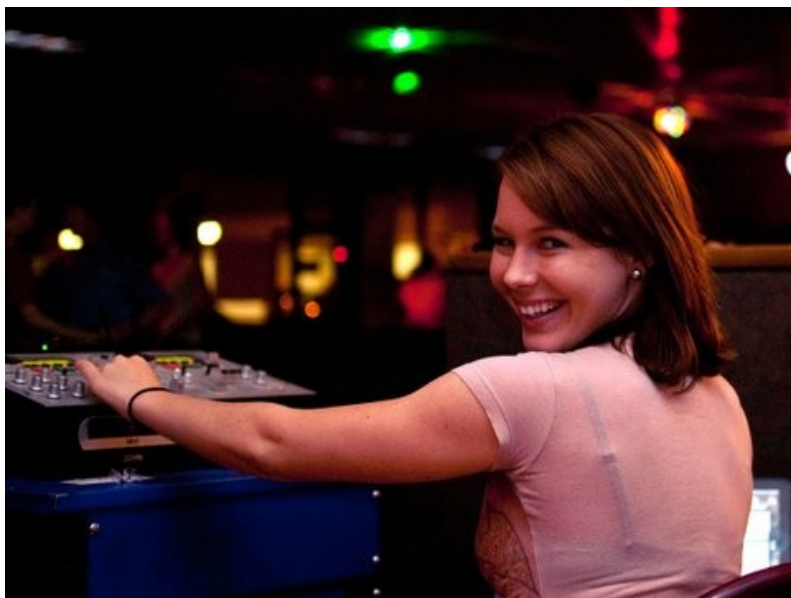
## The Tucson Swing Dance Club's October 2012

# Newsletter

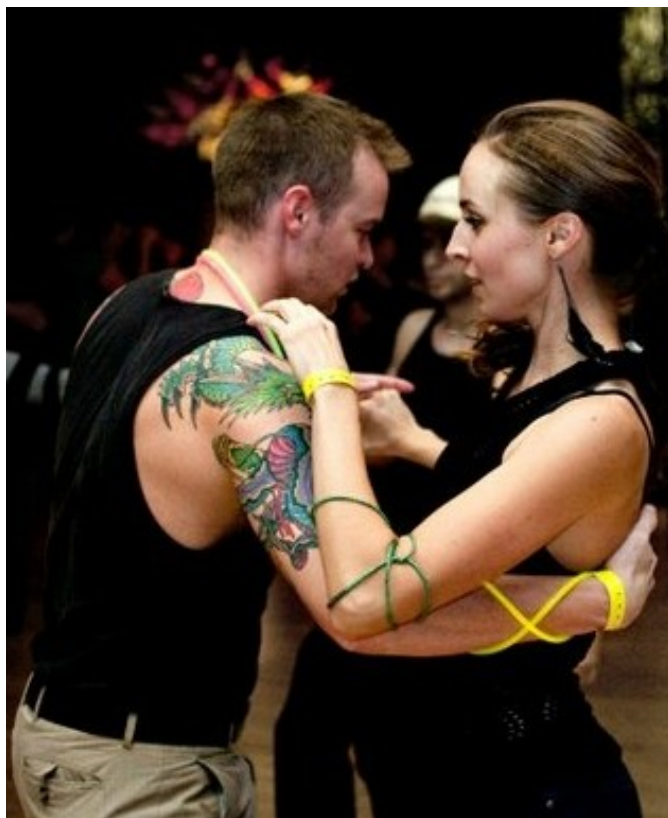
### This Month

**Colleen Concannon and Mike Zuspan** are the volunteer dance instructors for October.

- Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>: **John Calvo** is the DJ.
- Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>: **Board Meeting** 7 pm at IHOP, 1500 W. Grant Road. All members are welcome.
- Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>: Two Workshops featuring National WCS Champion **Tara Trafzer**. Only \$10 for members, \$15 for guests. **Caitlin McCarthy** is the DJ.
- Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>: Evaluations for Club Jack & Jills. Sign-up deadlines for evaluations is 8:45. **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>: **TSDC's Halloween Party**. Wear a costume and get in FREE! Enter our costume contest and have a scary good time! **Ron Gonzales** is the DJ.



*DJ Caitlin McCarthy looks like she enjoys DJing almost as much as we love dancing to her music. Thank you, Caitlin, for volunteering your time to DJ for the club. You keep the dance floor packed and everyone walks away with a smile!*



*Bradley Hyde and Temre Brandt were just two of the more than sixty TSDC dancers who went to **DESERT CITY SWING** up in Phoenix. Temre placed first in the Novice Jack and Jill at this national convention. Look inside this issue for more details on TSDC dancers who competed at Desert City Swing.*

### Upcoming Events

- October 25<sup>th</sup> : **TSDC Halloween Party! Come in Costume and get in FREE!**
- November 1<sup>st</sup> : **Contest Night** at the club. Get evaluated on October 18<sup>th</sup> so you can compete, or just come and cheer on all the competitors.

# President's Message

What a great October it is going to be at TSDC! We have **National WCS Champion Tara Trafzer** coming to TSDC for 2 workshops on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Then, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, we have our club Halloween Party. I've always loved the month of October



because the cooler evenings make for better dancing and morning temperatures can't be beat. Plus, because of Halloween, tons of horror movies come out and for BIG time horror movie junkies like me, well let's just say...I'm in heaven. Speaking of Halloween, if you **wear a costume for our Halloween dance, you will get in for FREE**. Wearing costumes to this dance is what makes it special and fun. I'm hoping that everyone will throw on something and make the evening sizzle.

Mary and I were talking about the importance of workshops this morning and why we felt that attending them was so important in expanding our knowledge and execution of WCS. Workshops put you in front of some of the best teachers and dancers in WCS who will help you freshen up your dancing by exposing you to new ideas. Workshops give you the opportunity to find out what the new trends in WCS are, which allows you to keep your dancing current. Workshops provide an excellent learning environment which can both challenge and motivate you to improve your WCS. You might learn just one new thing in a workshop which can make your dancing more enjoyable and make you a more enjoyable partner to dance with. Because the top WCS instructors teach around the globe, they are able to give us a snapshot of what is happening in WCS worldwide. I like knowing what is going on in WCS in other communities and countries.

Here at TSDC, our Board of Directors have made it our mission to continue our legacy of

providing the highest quality workshops for our members. We try to bring in the highest caliber instructors that we can afford. I think that we have done a great job so far. We've brought in Wendy Miller, Michael and Amber Cross, Patty Vo, Ben Morris and Melina Ramirez, Luis Crespo, Pete Green, Donny Carl and Regina Shpigel, Mary Ann Nunez, Ben McHenry and Terry Roseborough. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, the board is excited to welcome National WCS Champion **Tara Trafzer** to TSDC for the first time! Tara is one of the hot young stars in WCS and I'm looking forward to having her in Tucson. In keeping with our mission of putting the best instructors and dancers in front of our members, we have booked National WCS Champion **Melissa Rutz** at TSDC for two workshops on January 31st! A special thanks to **Karen Ward**, our workshop coordinator, for all her hard work contacting champions, arranging flights, compiling member feedback on workshops and doing an enormous amount of work to make these workshops possible.

For any of you who have attended workshops outside of TSDC, you know that the price for our workshops is a REALLY AMAZING DEAL! TSDC club members can attend 2 workshops **PLUS** get an evening of dancing, all for only \$10. This is only \$6 more than what members pay for a regular night of dancing. Non-members pay \$15 to attend our workshops (only \$9 more than what non-members pay for a regular night of dancing). Because our prices are so low (and we have to pay the champion for teaching and all their related expenses like airline tickets and costs while here), we still must charge either \$10 or \$15 even if you are just coming to dance and are not attending the workshops. So it obviously makes sense to come to the workshops, as well as the dance. We usually have a packed house for our workshops, which I am really proud of. It shows that our dancers are eager to learn and are excited to be exposed to these great instructors. **Be sure to fill out an evaluation form** after Tara's workshop, we want your feedback!

*See you on the dance floor...*

*Zo Carroll*

# September Jack and Jill Results



## Novice

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Billy Northcutt  
Leslie Whitaker
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bryan Gin  
April Northcutt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Eric Wade  
Penny Erickson



## Intermediate

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tom White  
Caitlin McCarthy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tom White  
Susan Spriggs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tom Grubaugh  
Sylvie Morel-Seytoux



## Advanced

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Zo Carroll  
Mary Carroll
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Don Bennett  
Lacey Petterson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Harvey Dong  
Jane Morgan





*A very special thanks to Karen Ward for taking pictures during the Intermediate division! Our club photographer, Matt Rounseville, was busy competing. Thank you, Karen, for helping out!*



**Ellen Colonna**  
**Head Judge**



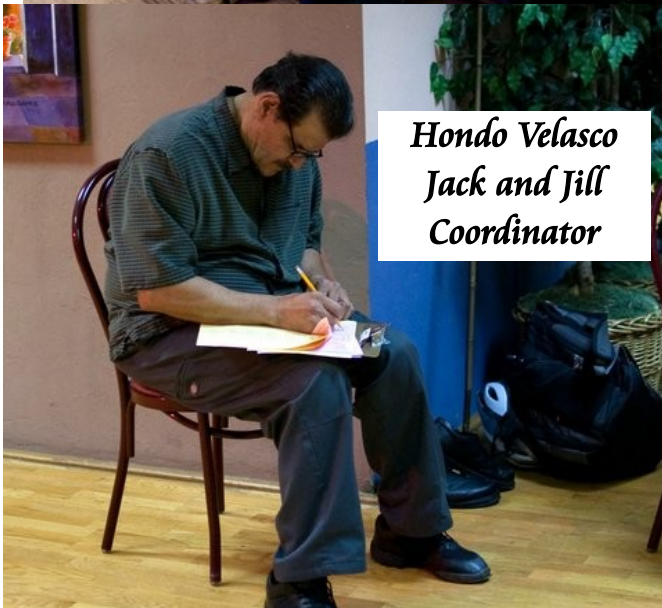
**Jeannie Tucker**



**Lisa Brink**



**Phyllis Abrams**



**Hondo Velasco**  
**Jack and Jill**  
**Coordinator**

*A very special thanks to all of our hard-working Jack and Jill Judges. These volunteer judges give up a night of dancing to make our club contests possible. Jeannie Tucker judges at national conventions all over the country, yet generously lends her expertise and time to judge our club Jack and Jills. Thank you to ALL of our judges throughout the season (some are not pictured on this page).*

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

# **Tara Trafzer**



Tara Trafzer has been dancing since the age of two. She has trained in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, latin and ballroom. Tara began West Coast Swing at the age of 10 at Buddy Schwimmer's studio where Benji, Lacey, Laurie and Buddy all had a huge influence on her dance. By age 12, she had entered her first US Open and has been competing in WCS ever since. Tara is a National WCS Champion and a sought after presenter.



Workshops held at:

Sonoran Ballroom Academy (formerly known as ABC)  
5536 E. Grant Road (Grant and Craycroft)  
Tucson, AZ

**Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

**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.*



**Tara is available for privates  
on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Slots will fill fast, so book your private today!  
Call Karen Ward at (520) 260-2963 to schedule.

# Beyond Patterns

by Matthew Loukopoulos



## Counting

As you may or may not have noticed, I haven't been around lately. It's not you, it's me. No, really. I'm not avoiding you. I really am still in Vancouver and I'm waiting for a visa to come back to Tucson. I don't know how long it will take, but you'll know when I'm coming back. I'll still be writing Beyond Patterns for the newsletter. My website is down for now but will return as soon as I re-do it. I'm also using the time to learn even more about this crazy little thing called West Coast Swing, as well as experiment with a few teaching methods to pass this on to you when I start classes in Tucson again. Enough about that. Let's move on to...

## Counting

One! One wonderful step. Two! Two terrific steps. Three! Three thrilling steps. Four! Four fabulous steps. Five! Five fantastic steps. Six! Six spectacular steps!! Ah-ah-ah.

Just like Count Von Count, we all count various things every day. Sometimes we count our pennies, other times we count calories. When we are learning to dance we count our steps. Do you ever stop counting your steps? Why?

In WCS we mostly run combinations of six and eight beat patterns to match phrases that are mostly thirty-two beats in length. Sometimes we will want to shorten a pattern. Other times we will want to lengthen a pattern. We generally don't have to count very high, but we do have to count. The number of beats in a given pattern isn't as important as counting them. Counting the beats is important.

Just recently I was in a Tango class struggling with a very basic figure. I knew where to go and I knew where my partner was supposed to go, but I was consistently leading her on the wrong foot and stepping on her feet. I was on beat and I couldn't figure it out. It hit me a few days later in the gym. It turns out I needed to give her an extra beat of music so she could get on the right foot. My timing was off. I wasn't counting. When I count it out, it works perfectly every time.

We all count when we dance. We have to. There is no shame in it either. Many of you have seen me count my own steps when teaching a class. It could be to take a given pattern and change the timing or to know where to step or move at a given place in the pattern. When I'm taking a class the same thing happens. You just don't see or hear it. The main difference between the beginners and advanced dancers when they count is whether their lips are moving or not.

I'm willing to bet that the majority of any timing issues you may have can be solved by counting. Start counting more. Keep it simple. Listen to your favorite song and just count beats. Start with just groups of eight. Count eight beats, then count another eight, then another eight, and so on. Count out loud when you are alone. At first it will seem silly. Do it anyway. There isn't anyone around to hear you. It'll do wonders for your dancing and your partners will be happier.

Being able to count effectively to the music puts you at the gateway of a higher level of WCS. Thunder and lightning are optional. 5,6,7,8, Ah-ah-ah.

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**TSDC Dancers Sparkled  
at Desert City Swing**

Eric Wade.....Novice J & J Semi-Finals  
 Jaclyn Hellmann.....Novice J & J Semi-Finals  
 Caitlin McCarthy.....Novice J & J Finals  
 Temre Brandt.....1<sup>st</sup> Place Novice J & J

Rehanna Loncar.....Intermediate J & J Finals  
 Nick Moore .....5<sup>th</sup> Place Intermediate J & J  
 CJ Wheelock.....4<sup>th</sup> Place Intermediate J & J

Ellen Colonna.....All American J & J Finals

Wendy Miller.....5<sup>th</sup> Place All Stars J & J

***Congratulations to ALL of the  
 TSDC dancers who competed  
 at Desert City Swing!***

**Not a Member Yet?  
 Now is the time to join...**

*For only \$30 you get the rest of 2012  
 and ALL of 2013!*

*Memberships are regularly \$25 per year.*

**Why should you become a member?**

- *Only \$4 each Thursday, instead of \$6*
- *Lower prices on workshops*
- *Lower prices at special events*
- *Cool membership card*
- *You will be supporting WCS in Tucson and helping to build a strong community of committed dancers for you to dance with each week!*

## October Birthdays

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

10/4 Jordan McGary  
10/5 Victoria Rodriguez  
10/7 Scott Menkal  
10/15 Jaclyn Hellmann  
10/19 Bill Wieboldt  
10/25 Rosemarie Chastain  
10/25 Karen Plemons

## New Members

*Welcome...*

Scott Menkal  
Heidi Heinrich  
Cynthia Sherman  
Sarah Ready  
Beth Luhman  
Alex McGary

***Ask a new member to dance!***

**We love all our new young dancers!  
However, children are difficult to see  
when you're dancing!**

**Please remind your children to walk  
around the edges of the dance floor  
instead of cutting across the floor!**

**This will help prevent someone from  
running into them accidentally.**

**Thank you for helping to keep our  
dance floor safe for EVERYONE!**

## 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](http://www.tsd.net).

## 2012-2013 TSDC Board

President: **Zo Carroll**  
[President@TSDC.net](mailto:President@TSDC.net)

Vice President: **Ellen Colonna**  
[VP@TSDC.net](mailto:VP@TSDC.net)

Treasurer: **Don Bennett**  
[Treasurer@TSDC.net](mailto:Treasurer@TSDC.net)

Membership Secretary: **Eleanor Schrandt**  
[Members@TSDC.net](mailto:Members@TSDC.net)

Corporate Secretary: **Vera Tucker**  
[Secretary@TSDC.net](mailto:Secretary@TSDC.net)

Sergeant at Arms: **Eric Wade**  
[Sergeant@TSDC.net](mailto:Sergeant@TSDC.net)

Head Judge: **Ellen Colonna**  
[Judge@TSDC.net](mailto:Judge@TSDC.net)

Newsletter Editor: **Mary Carroll**  
[Newsletter@TSDC.net](mailto:Newsletter@TSDC.net)

Contest Coordinator: **Hondo Velasco**  
[Contests@TSDC.net](mailto:Contests@TSDC.net)

Dance Director: **Tom Grubaugh**  
[Dance@TSDC.net](mailto:Dance@TSDC.net)

Music Director: **Scott Miller**  
[Music@TSDC.net](mailto:Music@TSDC.net)

Club Photographer: **Matt Rounseville**  
[Photo@TSDC.net](mailto:Photo@TSDC.net)

Website Administrator: **Julie Wilmer**  
[WebAdmin@TSDC.net](mailto:WebAdmin@TSDC.net)

Publicity Director: **Mindy Diamond**  
[Publicity@TSDC.net](mailto:Publicity@TSDC.net)

Hospitality Director: **Suzan Moore**  
[Hospitality@TSDC.net](mailto:Hospitality@TSDC.net)

Workshop Coordinator: **Karen Ward**  
[Workshops@TSDC.net](mailto:Workshops@TSDC.net)

Mailing Address: **Tucson Swing Dance Club**  
**PO Box 32226**  
**Tucson, AZ 85751**

## Ad Rates

Email ads to [newsletter@tsdc.net](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:newsletter@tsdc.net).

- Laurence Bonfoey:  
[dontdelaydancetoday.com](http://dontdelaydancetoday.com)
- Ellen Colonna: 520-548-6777
- Wendy Miller: 520-318-9236  
[wendymillerdance.com](http://wendymillerdance.com)
- Lacey Petterson: 520-339-4643

**TSDC**  
**Halloween Party**  
**October 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wear a Costume**  
**and Get in FREE!**  
**Costume Contest**  
**Sweet Treats**  
**and**  
**Wicked Fun Dancing!**



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

