

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's October 2013

Newsletter

This Month

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

- ▲ Thursday, October 3rd: **Alex Diekmann** is the DJ.
- ▲ Wednesday, October 9th: **Board Meeting** 7 pm at IHOP, 1500 W. Grant Road. All members are welcome.
- ▲ Thursday, October 10th: **Jim Davis** is the DJ.
- ▲ Thursday, October 17th: National WCS Champion, **Joanna Meinel**, presents two workshops 7-9pm. **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- ▲ Thursday, October 24th: Evaluations for TSDC Jack & Jills. **Alex Diekmann** is the DJ.
- ▲ Thursday, October 31st: **TSDC Halloween Party**. Wear a costume and get in **FREE!** **Scott Miller** is the DJ.



TSDC dancers Scott Menkal and Caitlin McCarthy drew each other in the Novice Jack & Jill Finals at Desert City Swing and won 1st place. Congratulations Scott and Caitlin! What an accomplishment!



Rose Marie Burrell, TSDC's founder, was at our 36th Anniversary Party. Zo Carroll, TSDC President, took a few moments to introduce Rose Marie and recognize her for her enormous contribution to the Tucson West Coast Swing community. Thank you, Rose Marie! We're all here because of you!

Upcoming Events

- ▲ Thursday, November 7th: **TSDC Jack & Jill**. You must already be evaluated in order to compete.
- ▲ Saturday, December 7th: **TSDC Annual Christmas Party** at *Shall We Dance*.

President's Message

Welcome to fall or what is referred to as “the season of change.” Hopefully, we will finally see an end to our 100 degree summer heat. As they say, “Everything changes.” WCS and change definitely go hand in hand. My challenge to you for October is to find one thing to change in your dancing. Take something that you do routinely and change it. Toss your hair differently, switch hands, change your anchor, change your starter step or stand up taller. Heck I don't know. Just change one thing! Let this be your “season of change.”



All of us are probably familiar with Michael Jackson's song: *Man in the Mirror*. It's a terrific WCS dance tune with some great lyrics to live by. The chorus goes like this:

I'm starting with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways
And no message could have been any clearer
If you wanna make the world a better place
Take a look at yourself, and then make a change

If you want to make your dancing better, look in the mirror and you will see who is responsible for making the change. Guess who? Change requires a big heap of “want to” and effort. There are many avenues available to you to improve and change up your WCS. You have our weekly TSDC group lessons and dance, our incredible workshops with some of the top instructors in the country. There are group lessons and a fun, fun dance every other month at Swingin' Saturdays. New WCS dance venues at Relish and Sunday Funk Day are trying to get off the ground. Both provide an opportunity to shake up your dancing. Conventions provide a fantastic way to get new ideas for changing and improving routine ways of dancing. As you know, I am a huge proponent of private coaching. I believe that it is the #1 way to change and improve your WCS. Private coaching can save you years of

frustration with this difficult dance. I'm not saying that you won't face frustrations. You will. Private coaching can take those frustrations and direct them in the right direction to make you a better dancer. Your understanding of this dance will soar along with your confidence and technical proficiency. Do yourself a favor and book a private this season.

Many of you are familiar with Nick Moor's Monday evening dance at The Loft. A recent email went out asking dancers to attend on Monday and share ideas in order to help each other improve their dancing. This is a fantastic idea! I remember back in the day, when I first started doing country swing, many of us would do the very same thing. We'd share AND steal moves from each other with the hope of making those moves our own! In this way, we improved as dancers. It created an atmosphere of collaboration, synergy, excitement, learning and fun. I applaud the dancers at The Loft for extending this invitation to our WCS dance community.

On October 17th you will have another great opportunity to kick start your “season of change.” Joanna Meinel, National WCS Champion, will be presenting two workshops at TSDC. She will also be available for private instruction. I know that you guys will give Joanna a big TSDC welcome by coming out and supporting these workshops. Please remember to be ready to dance by 7pm and make that man (or woman) in the mirror proud.

See you on the dance floor...

Za Carroll

September Jack & Jill Results

For our first Jack & Jill of the new season, we did not have enough competitors in any of the divisions. As a solution, the judges decided to hold an impromptu All-American. There are no divisions or levels in an All-American, anyone can dance with anyone.



All-American Results

Bryan Gin & Karen Ward1st Place
Bryan Gin & Leslie Whitaker.....2nd Place
Randy Malak & Christy Kroger.....3rd Place



TSDC Dancers Sparkled at Desert City Swing!







Beyond Patterns

by Matthew Loukopoulos



Plans B, X and Z

Are you a woman who leads or a man who follows in West Coast Swing or Argentine Tango? Leading and following are roles we assume when we are dancing. We all understand that, right? We all know that either gender can dance either role. For the sake of clarity and ease of writing and reading I use the terms 'men, guys, etc.' for the leaders and 'women, ladies, etc.' for the followers. Whatever side of the connection you want to dance on is totally cool with me. Okay, enough of that...on to the good stuff.

Guys, how many times have you been out on the dance floor with a few cool new patterns or moves you are itching to try? More than once or twice, I'm sure. How many times have you tried that cool pattern on someone and it didn't work? More than a few, right?

Many times I'll try something that works with one lady, but just won't work with another. Other times I'll try something and she'll end up in a totally different position than I had hoped or intended. It happens. We all blow a lead or two every now and again. What do you do? You can try again if you want to. But what if you try again and you get the same result? Your 'plan' isn't working and she keeps ending up somewhere else. Now what? Guys, I'm going to let you ponder that for a few.

Ladies, have you ever danced with someone who isn't giving you clear leads, leaving you guessing

what 'the plan' was? What can you do with those dozens of side passes and push-breaks you are lead into? How many times have you been out dancing with a sore shoulder and tired feet and just can't do that cool move you were just lead into? More than once or twice, I'm sure. What do you do if you are lead into something you just can't physically do? I'm going to let you mull that over while I tell you all a story.

A short while ago I was teaching a weekend workshop. In the class was a woman who had a slight physical limitation. With limited range of motion in certain parts of her body there were a few movements she just couldn't do. Her control of her own body movement, balance and turns were excellent. Her connection was fantastic. We had some great dances.

During her private we talked about what she wanted and where she was struggling. Her biggest issues were that she was either A: lead into the same things over and over with either clear or vague leads or B: lead into the latest youtube trick that her body couldn't do. I don't think she is alone here either. So, what did we do about it?

For both A and B, we got creative. We played around with what we could do to have a little more fun yet still stay safe and comfortable. For instance, during a dance with only side passes and push-breaks (sugar pushes) we looked for windows of opportunity for her to add her own embellishments to spice up the dance but not effect or confuse the lead. If I lead her into some sort of wild-big-army-turny-thing-a-ma-bob we found ways for her to break connection yet follow through with the motion so she could end up where he expected her to be and re-connect again without injury. We got creative within the framework of the patterns. It was a really fun lesson.

Alright, now back to you. Have you all pondered and mulled enough? Are you ready for the answers? I'm not going to give them to you this month. Nope. Instead, I'll leave you with the words of my student for your answers.

“If plan A didn't work, the alphabet has 25 more letters to check out.”

TSDC Halloween Party

Thursday, October 31st

Wear a costume and get in FREE!



Yummy Treats!

A Costume Contest with Prizes and
Dancing that will wake up the dead!



Congratulations to all TSDC Dancers who competed at Desert City Swing!

Scott Menkal & Caitlin McCarthy..... 1st Place Novice Jack & Jill
Ricky Barfield.....5th Place Novice Jack & Jill
Ali Ankeny.....Finals Novice Jack & Jill
Mary Carroll..... Semi-Finals Novice Jack & Jill
Monty NorrisSemi-Finals Novice Jack & Jill
Alex Diekmann.....Semi-Finals Novice Jack & Jill

James Linden & Ali Ankeny.....4th Place Novice Strictly Swing

Jaclyn Hellman.....4th Place Intermediate Jack & Jill

Zo Carroll.....Alternate for Finals Intermediate Jack & Jill
Finals Masters Jack & Jill

TSDC Newsletter Is Going GREEN!

The October issue will be the last newsletter that will be mailed out.

Go to TSDC.net to check out beautiful color issues of current and past newsletters. A limited number of print issues will still be available each month at the club.

Thank You!

Setup Help Needed!

Each week Randy Malak sets up the sound equipment for the club (about a 10-minute job). We are looking for someone (or several people) to take over this responsibility, as Randy will no longer be able to do it. The person taking over this responsibility will receive free admission to club on those nights (except workshop nights). Please talk with Susan at the front desk and let her know your contact info if you are interested, or you can email a board member if you're interested. Email addresses are listed in the newsletter on page 11 of this issue.

THANK YOU!

October Birthdays

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

10/19 Bill Wieboldt

New Members

No new members this month.

Fall Membership Special

**Join Now
for Only \$30**

**You will receive member
benefits for the rest of 2013
and ALL OF 2014!**

As a Member you will:

- *Save \$2 each week*
- *Save \$5 on workshops*
- *Save on Holiday Parties*
- *Be eligible to compete in Club Jack & Jills*
- *Get in FREE on special Member Appreciation Nights.*



Rochelle Browne
520.400.7723

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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.

2013-2014 TSDC Board

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

Vice President: **Ellen Colonna**
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Treasurer: **Don Bennett**
Treasurer@TSDC.net

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

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Secretary@TSDC.net

Sergeant at Arms: **Eric Wade**
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Publicity Director: **Mindy Diamond**
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Hospitality Director: **Rochelle Browne**
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Workshop Coordinator: **Christie Kroger**
Workshops@TSDC.net

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

Ad Rates

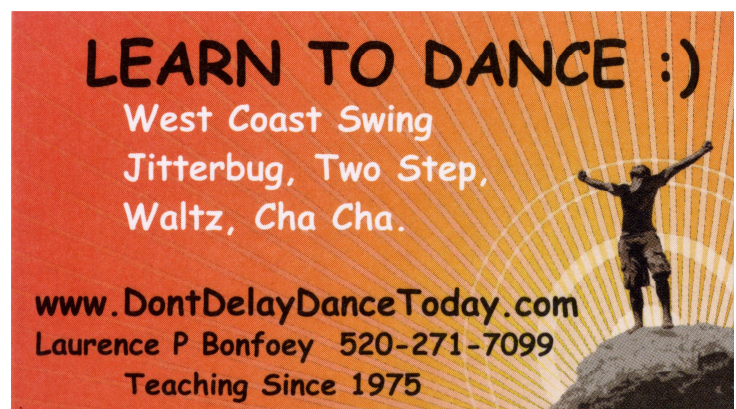
Email ads to newsletter@tsdc.net and send a check payable to the Tucson Swing Dance Club to TSDC, PO Box 32226, Tucson, AZ 85751. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

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: 520-907-0945
wendymillerdance.com
- ▲ Jeannie Tucker: 520-325-4100
jeannietucker.com
- ▲ Colleen Concannon: 520-309-0735



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